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Title : Release of Indian fishermen held captive by Srilankan Navy.

SHRI K. SHIVKUMAR ALIAS J.K. RITHEESH (RAMANATHAPURAM): Madam Speaker, fishermen's problem is an unsolved grave problem in my constituency. On 3.11.2009 the Sri Lankan Navy had seized five boats and arrested 16 fishermen. They are not released so far. After my becoming an MP this is the sixth big incident in my constituency. Likewise, our Navy also had arrested the Sri Lankan fishermen. Doing tit for tat will not solve the problem. I have represented this matter thrice in this House. Nevertheless, no solution has been found out. This problem persists since 1983.

The fishermen are facing two types of problems and they are not going to the sea. The first problem is the atrocity of the Sri Lankan Navy. As far as I am concerned, I think the only way to solve their problem is to implement the Kutch Island Agreement. If the Government has any other option to sort out the problem, please do implement it.

The second problem is with regard to the forest guards. Unexpectedly when a few banned items like sea cucumber and sea weeds enter into the net along with other fishes, the forest guards arrest the fishermen and fine them. It has become a routine incident in my constituency. It is not the intention of the fishermen to fish the banned items. May I urge the Government to remove the sea cucumber and sea weeds from the banned list? Every day the fishermen are facing a lot of problems.

Very often the fishermen community sit on *dharnas*, strike and hunger strike too.

I am unable to answer them. I would like to request the Government to solve this problem of the fishermen at the earliest.