

Request for repatriation of fishermen arrested from Gujarat and returning boats etc. captured by Pakistan authorities

SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI (Gujarat): Sir, the Arabian Sea is the fruitful fishing zone for fishermen of Western India. Most of the fishermen from West and North come to coastal areas of Gujarat for their fishing business. Pakistan Marine Security Agency so far has captured 361 fishermen and 265 boats from this area in 2005. Most of them belong to Gujarat. This is a continuous activity of the PSMA, Gujarat Government and NGO's from Gujarat and also M.P.'s have repeatedly requested the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture for repatriation of these fishermen along with their boats and other appliances. This problem has been taken up by External Affairs Ministry with Pakistan authorities and there was some kind of settlement. Yet, Pakistan authorities are arresting the fishermen of Gujarat and capturing their boats. Sometimes at intervals some of them are repatriated but boats and vessels are not returned. Hence they lose their livelihood. Hence, the Government of India is requested to have the matter looked into personally with the Pakistan Government and their concerned Agencies to repatriate these fishermen with their boats as soon as possible. The Government of India should urge Pakistan Government to treat this issue mutually on the lines of our agreement with Sri Lanka Government so that fishermen may get some relief and security.

SHRI AJAY MAROO (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Lekhraj Bachani.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Lekhraj Bachani.

Demand to give financial assistance to the drought affected State of Uttaranchal along with other relief measures

श्री हरीश रावत (उत्तरांचल): महोदय, मौसम चक्र में आए हुए भारी बदलाव के कारण देश के कई राज्य, जिनमें उत्तरांचल भी सम्मिलित है, भयंकर सूखे की चपेट में आ चुके हैं। उत्तरांचल में पिछले वर्ष अगस्त, 2006 से अभी तक अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में वर्षा नहीं हुई है, महज कुछ स्थानों पर ही नाममात्र की वर्षा हुई है। इस समय वर्षा के अभाव में उत्तरांचल सर्वाधिक सूखा पीड़ित राज्य है और यहां पर लगातार तीसरे वर्ष से सूखा पड़ रहा है। राज्य के असिंचित खेती वाले क्षेत्रों में रबी की फसल पूर्णतः नष्ट हो चुकी है। फल और सब्जियों के पौध और फूल भी नष्ट हो गए हैं। जंगलों में जाड़ों में ही आग लगने से पशुओं के लिए चारे की गंभीर समस्या खड़ी हो गई है।