

be ensured. The entire issue has been looked into by the Supreme Court. Kerala are playing politics. We want to protest this and we wish to stage a walk-out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

Reported Hijack of an Indian Merchant Vessel Named 'Bhakti Sagar' off the Somalian Coast and need to rescue its crew Members

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to save the hijacked vessel, *Bhaktisagar*, and its crew ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, according to the Indian Coastguard and the Marine Rescue and Coordination Cell, an Indian merchant vessel, *Bhaktisagar*, was hijacked off the Somalian coast. It is understood that 25 Indian crew members are on board the vessel. The vessel was hijacked near Imarn Port while it was coming from the Kimayo Port, 35 km from Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. It is reported that family members of the crew are worried since they don't know even the whereabouts of their beloved ones. Hence, I request the Government of India, through you, Sir, to immediately take measures through diplomatic and political channels and see to it that the crew is released and the vessel is freed from the hands of hijackers. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, discussion on the General Budget, 2006. Shri Sitaram Yechury.

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SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir. Much of the discussion on the Budget has been conducted. So, I would confine myself only to certain important points, which I would like to bring to the notice of the House.

Sir, I have two general points to make before I come to the concrete proposals and the various areas that I would like to discuss. Firstly, Sir, normally, when a Budget is presented, we have the opportunity to discuss the direction of the economic policy in the country, the health of the economy. Also, normally, Budgets used to be associated with what type of additional resource mobilisation would be required to meet the targets