

Regarding distressing situation involving seven Indian Seafarers being kidnapped by pirates

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): Thank you very much, Madam. I would like to draw your attention to the distressing situation involving seven Indian seafarers whom pirates at sea have kidnapped. Among them is Shri Rajeendran Bhargavan from my constituency, Kasaragod, along with another individual from Kochi, Kerala. The other five seafarers are from a different part of India. This incident occurred aboard the ship *Bitu River*, managed by Maritec Tanker Management Pvt. Ltd.

The journey began on September 6, 2024, and the last contact was made on March 17, 2025. On March 18, the families were informed of the hijacking. Shri Rajeendran's family, hailing from a poor fishing community, is in severe distress. His wife, who is in the advanced stages of pregnancy, is living in fear and uncertainty, without any updates on his safety. The families of the other kidnapped crew members are also experiencing similar anguish.

This matter is of national concern. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to take immediate and decisive action to locate and rescue these seven Indians and provide relief to these families and ensure the safety of our Indian seafarers.

माननीय सभापति : श्री एम. के. राघवन ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री पुट्टा महेश कुमार ? उपस्थित नहीं ।