

**Title:** Demanded to intervene in the matter of arrest of a scholar Mr. Ngwang Choepel by the Chinese Authorities inside China-ruled Tibet.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (KARUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was reported in yesterday's leading national newspapers about a Fullbright Scholar of Ethnomusicology, 34 year old, Mr. Ngwang Choepel, is serving an 18-year sentence in a jail inside China-ruled Tibet. He was arrested by the Chinese authorities in August 1995 in Tibet where he had quietly gone to document the dying folk culture of Tibet. His mother, after a long struggle, was allowed to see him in the jail, that too from a distance. According to her tearful version, the Scholar is suffering from ailments of liver, lung and stomach. He is all bones and skin only.

I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister, particularly the Minister of External Affairs, to intervene in the matter and see that the Scholar is released.