

Title: Issue regarding release of workers detained in Saudi Arabia, Male and Malaysia jails.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Thank you, Sir.

I have come across distressing messages from about 700 of our Indian workers who are confined in the prisons of Saudi Arabia, languishing there for a long time. These labourers of Indian origin are our Indian nationals who have gone there on job contracts and on similar such opportunities. Unfortunately they are behind bars now for petty reasons.

I have also received messages from our Indian workers put in prisons of Male, for no fault of theirs.

Our fishermen who set on sail for fishing – on losing their way due to water currents or strong winds – are arrested by the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Their hard-earned property like vessels, fishing nets and even the laboured catch are normally taken away from them. They are forfeited by authorities of those countries. Recently nine of our fishermen who belong to Kanyakumari have been arrested by Pakistan Navy and they are in Pakistan jails.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to take effective steps to secure their early release and enable their return to our country at the earliest.