

>

Title: Need to take steps to secure the release of fishermen of Gujarat and Diu from Pakistani Jails and extend adequate financial assistance to families of such fishermen.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD EAST): The Pakistani Navy and Coastal Guards have been capturing Indian fishermen quite often and around 229 fishermen belonging to Gujarat & Diu have been languishing in Pakistani jails for the last couple of years. Government of Gujarat has been promptly giving financial assistance to the families of these fishermen ever since the date of their capture. However, no financial assistance to these families had been provided by Government of India. Earlier, ex-gratia payment of Rs. 3 lakhs were given to the next kin of each person held in captivity and grant of Rs. 30,000/- for small boats and grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for travellers were given by Government of India. But for the last couple of years, this grant has been discontinued. I, therefore, request the Government of India to look into the matter and ensure that due financial assistance to these fishermen and their families should be given by Government of India and also all efforts should be made to secure their release from Pakistani Authorities.