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Title: Regarding lakhs of undertrial detainees in various jails in various parts of the country without trial.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I would like to raise a really very serious issue in this House. I rise to raise the voices of the lakhs of undertrial detainees in various jails in various parts of the country.

There are about four lakh prisoners who are waiting for their trial in various jails in various States. There is no justification on the part of the Government or the Judiciary to put the people in the jails for a long time without any trial. It is really against the Constitutional Right that a person enjoys, against the democratic principles a citizen can avail of and also against the humanitarian consideration that a citizen has to get.

The reason stated really is that there is a lack of judges, shortage of judges in various courts, as stated by the other hon. Member in this House now. As a result, the cases are pending in almost all the courts including the High Courts and also the lower courts. So, I request the Government to take a serious note. Of course the Judiciary has a responsibility but at the same time the Government also has the same responsibility. So, really due to the failure of the Government and the Judiciary the innocent people have been punished for a long time. What is the justification on the part of the Government and also the Judiciary to keep these people in prisons? For a range of a period from one year to ten years, they are in jails without any trial. What does the Government have to say on this? With these words, I conclude.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju and Shri Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.