

an>

Title: Need to take necessary steps to alert Indian fishermen who cross International borders by using an early warning system.

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I want to raise a very important matter regarding the tragedies of Indian fishermen.

The safety of the fishermen in our country who go for fishing in the high seas and some who stray into the international waters is a matter of great concern.

Some time back, an Italian ship was directly involved in shooting and killing our poor and innocent fishermen from Kerala. I fear appropriate action was not taken against the culprits. Hence, I have apprehensions that such situations may recur.

Our fishermen may inadvertently cross the international borders and be caught and imprisoned by countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Diego Garcia, etc. In such circumstances, they undergo inhuman treatment and it is not known how many were killed in the foreign waters. They languish in threatening environment in foreign jails for a considerably long period and at home their near and dear ones undergo anguish and agony. Such transgressions into foreign waters can also lead to international conflicts and alarming disputes between the countries involved. In such complex situations, the legal process involved is circuitous and cumbersome.

In view of these circumstances, I would like to urge upon the Government of India to take necessary steps to alert our fishermen who cross the international border by using an early warning system.