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**Title:** Requests the Central Government to take up the matter with the Karnataka Government to release 45 persons from Karnataka jails for the last five years under TADA.

SHRI K.P. MOHAN (DHARMAPURI): Sir, The Karnataka Government had taken into custody 121 persons to enquire about the sandalwood smuggler Veerappan about five years back and out of which 76 persons have been released on bail. However, still 45 persons, including 12 women, are in Karnataka Jails for the last five years under TADA. No case has been framed against these 45 persons till now.

The most interesting thing is that the State Government of Karnataka has not yet set up TADA Review Committee as has been done by various other State Governments. All sorts of atrocities and harassments are being committed on these 45 persons by the police officials of the Karnataka State Government. The reason for putting these 45 persons in jails is that these persons were the residents of the area where the sandalwood smuggler Veerappan was operating.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government to take up the matter with the Karnataka Government for release of these innocent persons.

\* Not Recorded