



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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Q NO 2870.DEMAND FROM TAMIL NADU ON SRI LANKAN ISSUE

December 18, 2014

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2870
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2014

DEMAND FROM TAMIL NADU ON SRI LANKAN ISSUE

2870. SHRI S. THANGAVELU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu had demanded that the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Working Groups be made a useful mechanism to address the issues concerning the fishermen;
- (b) whether the stonewalling attitude by the Sri Lankan delegation at the recent meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Committee had to cease; and
- (c) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu had also sought early action on the permanent solution for Kachchatheevu problem and initiation of long term diversification measures, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) An India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group (JWG), led by the Ministry of External Affairs, has been established since 2004 on the India-Sri Lanka fishermen's issue. During the last Meeting of the JWG held in Colombo in January 2012, it was agreed to enhance cooperation that would allow fishermen from both countries to pursue their fishing activity in a safe, secure and sustainable manner. Both sides also discussed measures for the expeditious release of bonafide fishermen.

(b) The first meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Committee on Fisheries related issues was held in New Delhi on 29 August 2014 to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in Fisheries sector. The two sides

agreed to examine joint opportunities between respective scientific institutes in research, development and capacity building. Both sides decided to hold the next round of Joint Committee meeting in Colombo.

(c) The matter relating to the Kachchatheevu island issue is currently sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Further, Government is steadfastly working, in close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, in finding a long term solution to the Fishermen's issue.



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