



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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Q NO.2371 FISHERMEN ARRESTED BY SRI LANKA

February 13, 2014

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2371
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2014

FISHERMEN ARRESTED BY SRI LANKA

2371. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 25 fishermen, seized their six trawlers and damaged a boat in the early hours on 21st January, 2014;

(b) whether the Sri Lankan Navy took away the captured fish and the mobile phones of the fishermen, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken up this issue as well during the talks held on 27th January, 2014, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) As per available information, on 21st January, 2014, 25 Indian fishermen and their six fishing vessels were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

(c) As soon as the report of apprehension of Indian fishermen was received, Government, through diplomatic channels, took up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities. As a result of its efforts, Government secured the release of 25 fishermen and their six fishing vessels on 25th January 2014. Government attaches the highest importance to the welfare, safety and security of Indian fishermen and

continues to remain engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that fishermen on both sides can continue to pursue their livelihood in a safe, secure and sustainable manner.



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