



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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Q NO.30 RELEASE OF TRAWLERS FROM SRI LANKA

April 23, 2015

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.30
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.04.2015

RELEASE OF TRAWLERS FROM SRI LANKA

30. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as many as 50 of the 87 trawlers detained in Sri Lanka since June last year are either fully or partly damaged and the salvage operation is yet to be begin in this regard;
- (b) whether Government has raised this issue with Sri Lankan Government at any point of time;
- (c) if so, the response received from that country for the release of the trawlers; and
- (d) whether Government is considering to send Coast Guard to bring back these trawlers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Of the eighty seven boats detained since June 2014 by Sri Lanka, for which release orders have been issued by Government of Sri Lanka, thirty eight boats have been salvaged in March 2015. Salvage of thirty more boats will be undertaken by Indian trawler owners in consultation with Government of Sri Lanka. Out of the remaining boats, three boats were submerged at the initial stage, one has been abandoned by the salvage team and fifteen boats are completely damaged and are likely to be abandoned.

(b) to (d) Government has been consistently taking up the matter of release of Indian fishing vessels with Government of Sri Lanka and has coordinated release/salvage of these boats with the assistance of the Indian Coast Guard.



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