



## Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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### Q.NO.386. ARREST OF INDIAN FISHERMEN BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

July 23, 2015

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.386  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2015

#### ARREST OF INDIAN FISHERMEN BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

386. DR K. P. RAMALINGAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Navy had arrested fourteen Indian fishermen on 3rd June, 2015, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has demanded that a permanent solution must be found to this problem through a decisive initiative by the Government, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As per available information, 14 Indian fishermen along with 3 fishing vessels were apprehended on 01.06.2015 by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters. Government, through diplomatic channels, has immediately taken up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka to secure an early release and repatriation of these fishermen and their fishing vessels.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to Hon'ble Prime Minister on the India-Sri Lanka fisheries issue, including on the expeditious release of Indian fishermen who are in Sri Lankan custody.

Government attaches the highest importance to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the issue, Government has emphasized

upon the need for the Sri Lankan Navy to exercise restraint, extend humane treatment to Indian fishermen and not to resort to violence under any circumstances. There are several bilateral mechanisms in place to ensure cooperation and understanding between India and Sri Lanka in resolving the fishermen issue, such as the Joint Working Group, October 2008 Understanding, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Fishermen Association Talks. In bilateral meetings, including at the highest levels, the issue has been consistently taken up and also recently during the visits of Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister to Sri Lanka. Government remains 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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