



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO.2570 FISHERMEN APPREHENDED/IMPRISONED AND ATTACKED BY SRI LANKAN FORCES

December 08, 2016

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2570
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2016

FISHERMEN APPREHENDED/IMPRISONED AND ATTACKED BY SRI LANKAN FORCES

2570. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian fishermen apprehended/imprisoned/attacked and their equipments and fishing boats seized by security forces of Sri Lanka during the last three years;
- (b) the time since when they have been imprisoned and the action taken to get them released along with fishing boats/trawlers/equipments and the success achieved in this regard; and
- (c) whether any meeting has been fixed with the authorities of Sri Lanka for amicable settlement of the issues, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a)

Year	Number of fishermen apprehended	Number of boats seized
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2014	787	164
2015	454	71
2016	254	46

(b) As soon as reports of apprehension of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities are received, Government, through diplomatic channels, takes up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen along with their vessels. India has consistently maintained that the fishermen issues involve longstanding livelihood and socio-economic practices and humanitarian concerns on both sides. It has been conveyed to the Sri Lankan side at the highest levels that the issue needs to be handled with great care and sensitivity.

Year	Number of fishermen released	Number of boats released
2014	1045 (including 273 of 2013 & 772 of 2014)	159 (85 of 2013, 74 of 2014)
2015	375 (including 15 of 2014 & 360 of 2015)	88 (87 of 2014, 1 drifted boat of 2015)
2016	333 (including 94 of 2015 & 239 of 2016)	--

(c) The India-Sri Lanka Ministerial level meeting on fishermen issues held in New Delhi on 5 November 2016 agreed to set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Fisheries, between Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of India and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development of Sri Lanka, as a bilateral institutional mechanism to help find a permanent solution to all fishermen issues. It has also been agreed that Ministers for Fisheries of the two countries would meet every six months to review the progress. The first ministerial meeting is scheduled for 2 January 2017 in Colombo.



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