



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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QUESTION NO.52 DISCUSSIONS WITH SRI LANKAN AUTHORITIES

July 21, 2016

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.52
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2016

DISCUSSIONS WITH SRI LANKAN AUTHORITIES

*52. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held discussions with Sri Lankan authorities regarding abrogation of the 1974 and 1976 agreements and retrieval of Katchatheevu;

(b) whether Government has been receiving demand from the State Government of Tamil Nadu on this issue from time to time; and

(c) whether Government has received a representation from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu recently in this regard, if so, the action taken thereon?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 52 REGARDING "DISCUSSIONS WITH SRI LANKAN AUTHORITIES" FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2016

Government has been receiving various representations from Government of Tamil Nadu regarding the issue of Katchatheevu Island and Indian fishermen from time to time. A letter from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was received in May 2016 on this issue.

Government regularly takes up issues related to Indian fishermen with Government of Sri Lanka, including at the highest levels.

As per the Agreements of 1974 and 1976 signed between India and Sri Lanka, Indian fishermen are allowed access to the Katchatheevu Island for rest, for drying fishing nets and for the annual St. Anthony's festival.

The matter relating to the Katchatheevu Island is currently sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.



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