



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO.4329 ARREST OF FISHERMEN BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

April 05, 2018

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4329
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

ARREST OF FISHERMEN BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

4329. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 13 fishermen for allegedly fishing in their territorial waters off Katchatheevu Island on 4th January 2018;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that they damaged a few boats and fishing equipments belonging to others using iron rods, before chasing them away;
- (c) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has urged Government to take up this issue with the Sri Lankan Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and 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) According to available information, two Indian fishing trawlers bearing registration number IND/TN/10/MM/190 and IND/TN/10/MM/496 along with 13 Indian fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lankan Navy near Katchatheevu Island on the intervening night of 3-4 January 2018 for allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan waters. The two trawlers along with the 13 fishermen were brought to Karainagar Jetty and

handed over to the Assistant Director Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Jaffna for legal formalities. The fishermen were produced in Magistrate Court Kayts and were lodged in Jaffna prison. As a result of sustained diplomatic efforts, Government was successful in securing the release of the above mentioned fishermen on 16 February 2018.

(c) & (d) In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister dated 4 January 2018, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu highlighted the arrest of the 13 Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities and urged the Government to take up the issue with the Government of Sri Lanka. As soon as information regarding apprehension of the 13 Indian fishermen was received, High Commission of India in Colombo and Consulate General of India in Jaffna secured consular access, met the apprehended fishermen and distributed clothes, essential toiletries, etc. The matter was also raised by the High Commission of India in Colombo with the Government of Sri Lanka which resulted in the release of the fishermen.



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