

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1295**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

**FIRING ON INDIAN FISHERMEN**

1295. SHRI RAMALINGAM S.:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the status of enquiry with respect to the officer of an Indian Navy ship who opened fire on Indian fishermen involved in fishing activities near Kodiakkarai;
- (b) the details related to the compensation paid along with subsequent actions taken by the Government against such delinquent officer;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps for release of Indian fishermen apprehended by Maldives Navy on 22.10.2023 and waiver of the penalty imposed for Indian fishing vessel bearing registration number IND-TN-12-MM-6376, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps for release of Indian Fishermen and 5 Fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN-10-MM-860, IND-IN-10-MM-985, IND-TN-10-MM-915, IND-TN-10-MM-717 and IND-TN-10-MM-972 apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 28.10.2023; and
- (e) if so, the details and subsequent action thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): Board of Inquiry has been completed on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 and administrative action has been taken against the Indian Naval Officer. Compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs was paid to Mr. Veeravel, S/o Kasirajan, Vanagiri of Mayiladuthurai District who was seriously injured in the firing incident. 06 other fishermen who suffered minor injuries were paid Rs. 1.20 lakh (Rs. 20,000/- per fisherman) from Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

(c): Yes, Sir. After close follow-up by High Commission of India in Male, all 12 Indian fishermen onboard fishing vessel IND-TN-12-MN-6376 have been repatriated safely to India. Due diplomatic action has been taken by High Commission of India in Male with the relevant authorities in Maldives regarding the fine imposed on the vessel.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. Among the 37 Indian fishermen apprehended, 36 have been repatriated in November, 2023 and 01 fisherman has been jailed for 02 years on charges of crossing IMBL repeatedly as he was apprehended in 2022 also. Due diplomatic action has been taken for release of the 05 fishing boats with the relevant authorities in Sri Lanka.

\*\*\*\*\*