

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2964
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
SEIZURE OF PAKISTAN'S SHIPS BY COAST GUARD
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Coast Guard has since completed the enquiry in the seizure of three Pakistani ships which were captured by them some time back;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the incidents of infiltration through the sea routes by Pakistan, particularly in the South of Okha Coast in Andhra Pradesh have increased considerably; and
- (d) if so, the details of such cases recorded during the current year and the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): Coast Guard ships apprehended four Pakistani fishing vessels with 49 crew members in October, 2000 for fishing illegally in Exclusive Economic Zone of India. These apprehensions were made 43 nautical miles west of Mitha Port and 15 nautical miles from Jakhau light.

During the current year, till 16.10.2000, Coast Guard have apprehended 16 Pakistani vessels with 180 crew.

The fishing boats apprehended by Coast Guard were handed over to local Police for appropriate legal action. The apprehended crew were interrogated. However, no suspicious element was found.

There are no reports indicating increase in infiltration by Pakistanis off the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

Coast Guard and Navy carry out regular surveillance through their ships and aircrafts to protect Indian maritime zone and to safeguard national interests in Exclusive Economic Zone.