

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1000
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
SRILANKAN COAST GUARDS ATTACKS ON INDIAN FISHERMEN
P.D. ELANGO VAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the attacks made on Indian fishermen by the Srilankan Coast Guards during each of the last three years;
- (b) the details of the Indian fishermen arrested by the Srilankan Coast Guards during the above period;
- (c) the steps taken by both the Central and State Governments with regard to get them released; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to protect the Indian fishermen suffering heavily from the indiscrete attack by the Srilankan Coast Guards?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

- (a) and (b) Details are being compiled. The information will then be placed on the Table of the House.
- (c) and (d) The problems faced by Indian fishermen are taken up with the Government of Sri Lanka at a high level. Whenever incidents concerning fishermen and their boats are reported to the Government, the matter is also taken up with the Government of Sri Lanka. Both sides are agreed on the need to deal with these problems in a humane and compassionate manner. The Sri Lankan Government have assured Government of India that their forces are under instructions to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with Indian fishermen found in Sri Lankan waters. The Sri Lankan Government have, however, emphasised that a grave security situation exists in Sri Lankan waters surrounding the North of that country and have expressed concern at the large scale movement of Indian vessels in sensitive zones close to the Sri Lankan shores. They have also referred to the violent activities of the LTTE in their waters.