

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2809
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
INDIAN FISHERMEN IN CAPTIVITY
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Indian fishermen are still languishing in Pak and Sri Lankan jails;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts being made to secure their release?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) According to available information, 112 fishermen are held in Pakistani jails. There are 20 Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails.

(c) Government is in continuous contact with Pakistan through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of these fishermen. Similarly, in case of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails, the matter is taken up at appropriate levels in both New Delhi and Colombo and we continue to pursue it till the fishermen are released and repatriated.