

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2913

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006

CAPSIZING OF BOAT IN BAHRAIN

Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a boat in Bahrain capsized with several Indian aboard;
- (b) if so, the number of Indians killed in this incident;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received any report on this mishap from its Embassy in Bahrain;
- (d) If so, details thereof;
- (e) Whether assistance had been provided to the victims of the said mishap;
- (f) If so, the details thereof; and
- (g) The time by which the claims of their dependents are likely to be settled?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes, Sir. A Bahraini boat Al Dana capsized in Bahrain on March 30, 2006.

(b) 22 Indians were killed in this accident.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has received a detailed report in this regard from Embassy of India in Bahrain. In this tragedy, 58 persons were drowned, of whom 22 were Indians. There were 72 survivors of whom 30 were Indians. Bahraini authorities have arrested the owner of the boat as well as two Indians in this connection. The Government of Bahrain has already instituted an enquiry into this incident.

e) and f) Indian Embassy in Bahrain provided all assistance to all affected Indians and their families expeditiously. Dead bodies of those killed were sent to India in the first week of April 2006. The Embassy has taken up the matter of compensation for the victims with the Bahraini authorities.

g) While the families affected by the tragedy are required to file individual claims with the respective employers etc., Embassy of India, Bahrain has already set in motion the process of obtaining Legal Heir Certificates and Powers of Attorney for filing class action suits on behalf of the affected Indian families. These legal formalities to settle the claims under Bahraini laws will take some time. However, in a talk at Foreign Ministers Level Government of Bahrain has assured all that is necessary in the boat tragedy will be done expeditiously.