

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2911
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
FISHERMEN IN PAK JAILS
Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian fishermen and fishing boats detained by various agencies of Pakistan during the last one year and the current year, till date, year-wise;
- (b) the number of fishermen and boats released by them during the above period, year-wise;
- (c) the number of fishermen and fishing boats in the captivity of Pakistan, as on date; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the fishermen and their boats released from Pakistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) detained 274 Indian fishermen and 50 boats in 2009. This year, 48 Indian fishermen and 11 boats have been detained till date by Pakistan.
- (b) Pakistan released 100 Indian fishermen in 2009 while no Indian fisherman has so far been released this year. No boat has been released by Pakistan since October 2003.
- (c) At present, 582 Indian fishermen and 445 boats are in captivity of Pakistan.
- (d) Government of India has been consistently taking up the issue of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails with the Government of Pakistan at all appropriate levels. The matter was raised with Pakistan at the talks between Foreign Secretaries on 25-02-2010 in New Delhi and 24-06-2010, during Home Minister's meeting in Islamabad on 25-06-2010 and during Foreign Minister level talks in Islamabad on 15-07-2010. Further, an India-Pak Judicial Committee on Prisoners consisting of four retired judges from each side has been set up to recommend steps for humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners of the respective countries in each other's jails. The committee has so far had three meetings and has given several recommendations.