

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2418
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
RELEASE OF FISHERMEN
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of fishermen and boats released by the neighbouring countries from their captivity during the current year;
- (b) the number of Indian fishermen and fishing boats still languishing in their jails as on date, country-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government of India to get the fishermen and their boats released from these countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a): The details of the Indian fishermen and fishing boats released by Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the current year are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Country	No. of Fishermen released in 2010	No. of Boats released in 2010
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1.	Pakistan	442	0
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2.	Sri Lanka	26	2
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(b): The details of the Indian fishermen and fishing boats in custody of Pakistan and Sri Lanka are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Country	No. of Fishermen in Custody	No. of Boats in Custody	State belonging to
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1.	Pakistan	150	445	Most of them belonged to Gujarat and Diu and Daman
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2.	Sri Lanka	4	1	Most of them belonged to Tamil Nadu
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(c): Government has been making persistent efforts for the release of Indian fishermen and their boats from Pakistan and Sri Lanka. An India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners was formed on 26-02-2008 to make recommendations to the two Governments, which inter alia included immediate release of and consular access to fishermen, and exchange of a consolidated list of nationals in each other's jails. India and Sri Lanka agreed on 26-10-2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). As part of these practical arrangements, it was decided that there will be no firing on Indian fishermen and vessels, and Indian fishing vessels will not tread into sensitive areas designated by GoSL along its coastline.