

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3445
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
ATTACKS ON INDIAN FISHERMEN BY SRI LANKAN ARMY
Ramasubbu Shri S.,Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of attacks on fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy is on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the number of Indian fishermen captured or killed in such incidents;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to provide satellite phones to fishermen as a safety measure;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for safety and security of the fishermen against such attacks?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): As per available information, year-wise details of Indian fishermen allegedly attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy is as follows: in 2006, 5 incidents were reported with none killed; in 2007, 5 incidents were reported with 4 killed; in 2008, 9 incidents were reported with 5 killed; and in 2009, one incident was reported with none killed. The Sri Lankan Navy has denied responsibility in all such incidents.

(d): No.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): Government has always taken up strongly with the Government of Sri Lanka all alleged incidents of attack or firing on Indian fishermen and emphasized the need for the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint, desist from firing on our fishermen and treat them in a humane manner. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the issue, the Government has reached an understanding with the Sri Lankan Government on 26th October 2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. As part of these arrangements, there will be no firing on Indian fishing vessels and Indian fishing vessels will not tread into sensitive areas designated by the Government of Sri Lanka along its coastline. Further, government takes various measures including educating and warning fishermen to prevent the straying of Indian fishing vessels into Sri Lankan waters.