

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:177
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011
KILLING OF FISHERMEN IN DEEP SEAS
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been reports of some Indian fishermen killed by the Sri Lankan Navy off the Tamil Nadu coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the welfare and safety measures being taken by the Government for the fishermen in the water between India and Sri Lanka?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): There have been reports of attacks on Indian fishermen allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel. Two fishermen died in January 2011 and death of four fishermen was reported in April 2011. However, Sri Lanka has denied involvement of its Navy in these incidents. The government accords highest priority to the welfare, safety and security of fishermen. Both Navy and Coast Guard carry out surveillance work along the coast and guide/repatriate our fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) back to India. Coast Guard regularly conducts community interaction programme to educate fishermen not to cross IMBL.