

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:344

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

CAPTURE ON INDIAN FISHERMEN

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Bhousaheb;Ramasubbu Shri S.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of Indian fishermen and fishing boats captured by Pakistan and Sri Lanka during 2011 for violating territorial waters alongwith the States to which they belong;
- (b) the number of fishermen and boats released by these countries during the above period, country-wise;
- (c) the total number of fishermen and boats in captivity of these countries as on date, country-wise and the time since when they have been lodged therein;
- (d) the mechanism available at present for the speedy release of these fishermen and boats from the above countries;
- (e) whether any financial assistance is provided to these fishermen on their release for the loss suffered by them and damage caused to their boats; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) As per available information, the details of Indian fishermen apprehended and released by Pakistan and Sri Lanka during 2011 (till November 14) are as follows:

Country	Fishermen	Boats
#A	##R	###C A R C

Pakistan	270	103	396	50	NIL	511
Sri Lanka	164	164	NIL	32	32	NIL

#A: Apprehended ##R: Released ###C: In Custody

(d) High Commission of India, Islamabad, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails and requests for consular access for these fishermen. Once consular access is granted by the Government of Pakistan, the verification papers are sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Ministry of External Affairs for nationality status verification of these fishermen. High Commission of India, on a continuing basis, takes up the matter with the Government of Pakistan for the release of all those Indian fishermen who have completed their sentences. An India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners consisting of four retired judges from each side was set up in February 2008 to recommend steps for human treatment and expeditious release of prisoners of the respective countries in each other's jails. The Committee has so far had four meetings and has given several recommendations. Members of the India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners visited Pakistan from 18-23 April 2011 and visited jails in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore. The next meeting of the Judicial Committee is to be held in India, dates for which are to be finalised through diplomatic channels.

As soon as the news of apprehension of Indian fishermen is received, High Commission of India, Colombo takes up the issue with Government of Sri Lanka for expeditious release of all apprehended Indian fishermen. India and Sri Lanka agreed 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 (IMBL).

(e) & (f) The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) is the nodal agency for payment of compensation to the fishermen lodged in Pakistani jails and the scheme -"Soft Loan Package for Replacement of Fishing vessels held in captivity in Pakistan" which is being implemented by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).