

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1538

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

INDIANS IN BANGLADESHI JAILS

Choudhary Shri Harish;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Rama Devi Smt.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Indian civilians including fishermen who sneaked/entered into the Bangladesh territory unintentionally were arrested/detained with their boats during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) the number of civilians and fishermen out of them released along with their boats;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up the issue of safety of Indian civilians and fishermen with the Government of Bangladesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) As per information available, the number of Indian civilians including fishermen who strayed into Bangladesh territory unintentionally and were arrested/detained with their boats in the last three years (2009, 2010 and 2011) was 3, 2 and 79, respectively.
- (c) All Indian civilians and fishermen detained in the last three years were promptly released and repatriated with their boats.
- (d) Whenever reports of Indian fishermen straying into Bangladesh territory were received, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka requested immediate consular access and their repatriation on humanitarian grounds.
- (e) The Government of Bangladesh has responded positively to our requests by fast tracking the process of release and repatriation of Indian fishermen.