

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2978
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
ASSISTANCE TO FISHERMEN
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Coast Guard provides any assistance to the Indian fishermen in the deep seas near the international maritime boundary when they are in distress;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Gujarat fishermen who were extended such assistance by the Coast Guard during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (d) the number of such fishermen rescued by the Coast Guard from the capture of neighbouring countries during the said period, year-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The Indian Coast Guard provides assistance to the Indian fisherman at sea while they are in distress.
- (b) On receipt of information regarding fishermen in distress the concerned Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)/Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) coordinates the rescue operation. The Coast Guard Operation Centre thereafter either diverts a unit already at sea or sails ship from the nearest Coast Guard Region for search and rescue operation. Coast Guard also activates International Safety Net (ISN) to alert any merchant vessel passing nearby for extending assistance to the vessel in distress.
- (c) The details of Search and Rescue (SAR) assistance provided by the ICG to the Gujarat fishermen in the last three years are as follows:-

Year No. of SAR Operations No. of Lives Saved

2009 26 8

2010 12 76

2011 20 66

- (d) The Indian Coast Guard provides due protection to the fishermen in Indian waters. Close to the IMBL, it observes constant vigil and thwart attempts to capture Indian fishermen. As per records, in the Year 2011, capture of 06 Indian fishing boats alongwith 22 Gujarat fishermen was prevented.