

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3559
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012
SAFETY OF INDIAN FISHERMEN
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fishermen in the seas have become vulnerable targets of foreign vessels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the casualty suffered during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for ensuring the safety of Indian fishermen?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b): There have been two incidents involving foreign flagged Merchant Ships resulting in death of Indian fishermen in the last three years and the current year. The details of the two incidents both of which occurred off the coast of Kerala State are as under:-

(i) On 15th February, 2012 at about 1630. hrs (IST), 2 security guards on board MT Enrica Lexie (Flag Italian) fired on an Indian fishing boat "St.Anthony". Two Indian fishermen, Mr. Pintu and Mr. Jelastin were killed in the firing and the boat was damaged.

(ii) On 01st March, 2012 at about 0200 hrs (IST) M.V. Prabhu Daya (Flag Singapore) collided with an Indian fishing boat, "Don - 1" resulting in loss of lives of 5 fishermen and sinking of the fishing boat.

(c): The following steps have been taken by the Government for ensuring the safety of Indian Fishermen:-

(i) Navarea VIII warning No. 100 dated 23rd February, 2012 has been issued by Indian Coast Guard in which all vessels have been warned that fishing is carried out upto 50 nautical miles from the coast and vessels should not mistake fishing boats as skiffs and PAGs (Piracy armed groups).

(ii) Directorate of Shipping vide M.S.Notice 7 of 2012 dated 7th March, 2012 has advised all merchant vessels to take note of dense fishing traffic on Indian Coast, the possibility that they may be approached by these boats for safeguarding their nets/lines and that these fishing boats should not be mistaken for pirate skiffs. Merchant Ships have been advised to navigate with extreme caution when approaching upto 50NM from the Indian coast.

(iii) The National Automatic Identification System (NAIS), which has been commissioned will help in costal surveillance of all the vessels above 300 GT upto 50 km of the Indian coast line. The position of such vessels can be traced with the help of the system by the security agencies who can also pin point the position of the vessel involved in such collision. This will ensure that hit and run cases do not happen and will therefore, have a deterrent effect on the vessels.