

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4152

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012

ATTACKS ON INDIAN FISHERMEN

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent attacks on Indian fishermen by our neighboring countries for alleged violations of territorial waters;
- (b) If so, the details thereof during the last three years, country-wise;
- (c) the number of fishermen and fishing boats in the custody of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as on date;
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to get them released; and
- (e) the rehabilitation package in place on release of such fishermen?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) The Government attaches high importance to the welfare, safety and security of our fishermen. From time to time, there have been reports of apprehension and attacks on Indian fishermen. As soon as reports of apprehension of Indian fishermen are received, the Government has, through diplomatic channels, immediately and consistently taken up the matter for their expeditious release and repatriation with the Governments concerned. The matter has also been taken up during bilateral meetings at various levels. The Government has also emphasised upon the need to ensure humane treatment and that there should be no resort to violence against fishermen under any circumstances.

Due to Government's consistent efforts, there are presently no Indian fishermen in the custody of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on fisheries related charges and 677 Indian fishermen have been released by Pakistan in 2012 so far.

As per available information, 134 fishermen believed to be Indian and approximately 600 Indian fishing boats are in Pakistan's custody. Out of these, Pakistan has provided Consular Access to 07 fishermen whose nationality confirmation process is underway; remaining 127 are awaiting Consular Access.

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).