

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3293
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
ATTACK BY SRI LANKAN NAVY
Maharaj Shri Satpal

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sri Lankan Government has replied to the protest registered by the Indian Government against the numerous attacks by the Sri Lankan army during the previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): Government attaches very high priority to the welfare, safety and security of Indian Fishermen. From time to time, there have been reports of attacks and apprehension on Indian fishermen near International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). As soon as reports of attacks on Indian fishermen are received, the Government, through diplomatic channels, takes up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the issue, Government has impressed on the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint, not to fire on our fishermen and treat our fishermen in a humane manner. The Government of Sri Lanka has denied involvement of their Navy in these incidents.

The Government continues to remain engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that fishermen on both sides can continue to pursue their livelihood in a safe, secure and sustainable manner.