

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4509  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013  
ATTACK ON FISHERMEN  
M.Thambidurai Dr.

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Indian fishermen have been attacked repeatedly by the Sri Lankan Navy on the territorial waters during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise including the number of fishermen died, captured and imprisoned in Sri Lanka during the said period;
- (c) whether the Indian Coast Guard is not playing its role by preventing such attacks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): From time to time, there are reports of incidents of attack on Indian fishermen, allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy. Government has been consistently taking up such issues with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy acts with restraint and our fishermen found near International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) are treated in a humane manner. In order to avoid recurrence of incidents involving our fishermen and keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of fishermen issues, Government has reached an understanding with the Government of Sri Lanka in October, 2008, to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). As part of these arrangements, it has been agreed that there would be no firing on Indian fishing vessels and that Indian fishing vessels would not enter the sensitive areas designated by the Government of Sri Lanka along its coastline. Following are the details of the number of fishermen died, captured and imprisoned in Sri Lanka during the last three years:

Year	Died	Detained
2010	01	32
2011	02	203#
2012	Nil	202
2013	Nil	125 (till date)

(i) 10 Indian nationals including 05 fishermen arrested in November 2011, are in custody on charges of smuggling narcotics and contraband.

(c) Indian Coast Guard provides assistance to Indian fishermen at sea while they are in distress through regular patrolling. It also conducts Community Interactions Programmes to educate fishermen among other issues, on the perils of cross border fishing. Under operation 'Tasha', Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships are deployed continuously (24X7) in Palk Bay area to prevent any illegal activities and also to protect the fishermen from any attacks, while they are fishing in Indian waters.

(d) & (e): Does not arise in view of (c) above.