

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3824
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
PROTECTION OF FISHERMEN
Lingam Shri P.;Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coast guard provides due protection to Indian fishermen and their boats in Indian Territorial waters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases when the fishermen and their boats have been seized and detained by foreign coast guards;
- (c) the number of incidents when foreign fishing boats have entered the Indian Territorial waters; and
- (d) the steps taken to check such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): Indian Coast Guard provide assistance to the Indian fishermen at sea while they are in distress. Their aircrafts and ships carry regular patrols to prevent Indian fishing boats crossing the International Maritime Boundary Lines (IMBL) and also conduct 'Community Interaction Programme' to inform the fishermen on the perils of cross border fishing. Indian fishermen are generally apprehended by foreign Navies when they have been engaged in fishing inside their territorial waters. As per records in Navy, 35 Indian fishing boats with 200 fishermen have been apprehended by Pakistani Navy and 31 fishing boats with 123 fishermen have been apprehended by Sri Lankan Navy this year. 14 Pakistani and 119 Sri Lankan fishing boats were apprehended while fishing in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) since 1st January, 2009. Enhanced aerial and surface surveillance/patrolling off the sea-coast by the security agencies would be continued to deter such incidents.