

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1099

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013

FISHERMEN ARRESTED BY SRI LANKA

Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Lingam Shri P.;Panda Shri Prabodh;Rajendran Shri C.;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 37 Indian fishermen on 14th October 2013 on charges of fishing in Sri Lankan waters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the issue of frequent attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy has been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government including in the Ministerial talks in Colombo; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) According to available information, on 14 October, 2013, 37 Indian fishermen (15 and 22 Indian fishermen in two separate incidents) were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters. As a result of its consistent efforts, Government secured the release and repatriation of 22 Indian fishermen on 8 November, 2013 and the remaining 15 on 26 November, 2013.

(c) & (d) Government attaches the highest importance to the welfare, safety and security of our fishermen. 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. The matter has also been taken up during bilateral meetings at various levels. 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 Sri Lankan side has, however, denied the involvement of their Navy in any incidents of harassment or intimidation or attack on Indian fishermen and vessels.