

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3341
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
FISHING IN PALK STRAIT
Anandan Shri K.Murugesan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to have an Indo-Sri Lankan pact on fishing in the Palk Strait;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Sri Lankan authorities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of Sri Lanka thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d) Government have taken up on priority basis with the Government of Sri Lanka the question of the safety of our fishermen. We have consistently intervened to get our fishermen released. We have impressed on the Sri Lankan Government to act with restraint and treat our fishermen in a humane manner. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the issue, on 26th October 2008, both sides agreed 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 practical arrangements, it was decided that there will be no firing on Indian fishermen and vessels and Indian fishing vessels will not tread into sensitive areas designated by GoSL along its coastline.

India & Sri Lanka are also negotiating an MoU on Fisheries and two round of discussions have been held.