

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3722

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

EXCHANGE BETWEEN FISHERMEN

Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fishermen were apprehended by the Coast Guard for exchanging goods with Pakistani fishermen off Okha coast near international maritime boundary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in deep waters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Indian Coast Guard apprehended two Indian fishing boats namely, "Narayan" and "Narayani" along with 10 fishermen for fishing in No Fishing Zone. Preliminary investigation revealed that the Indian crew of "Narayan" provided fodder fish to a Pakistani boat near International Maritime Boundary Line(IMBL) in exchange of a pack of cigarettes from them. Similarly, the crew of "Narayani" exchanged ice with a Pakistani boat for a pouch of milk, a juice packet and a packet of chocolates.

(c): The ships of Indian Coast Guard(ICG)/Indian Navy(IN) are patrolling the area adjoining IMBL and issue warning to the vessels approaching IMBL through VHF and loud hailers, besides conducting regular air surveillance sorties. ICG conducts regular Community interaction programmes in fishing villages to sensitize the fishermen on security issues and risk involved in crossing IMBL. In addition, any vessels which attempt at crossing IMBL or operating in no-fishing zone are seized and handed over to the State Fisheries Departments for taking punitive action against them.