

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2929
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
INJURY TO FISHERMEN
P. Shri Nagarajan

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fishermen have been injured and their boat damaged in firing by coast guard in Kerala and Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for firing at fishing boat;
- (c) whether any compensation has been given to them for their medical treatment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) to (d): On 12.1.2015, an incident took place off Kerala coast wherein two fishermen from a fishing boat Rishika suffered minor injury from the ricochet of a warning shot fired by Indian Coast Guard Ship. While on routine patrol, a Coast Guard interceptor boat asked the fishing boat Rishika to stop for checking. However, the boat did not respond and tried to escape. Thereafter, the Coast Guard ship followed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for warning and stopping the boat, including warning on loud hailer, circling the boat and firing illumination rounds.

After all these measures were exhausted, the ship fired warning rounds. The boat thereafter stopped and was boarded by Coast Guard ships boarding team for investigation. It was found that the 09 crew on the boat were not carrying any ID proof. It was also discovered that two of the crew members had suffered minor injury from the ricochet of the warning shot. Both the injured crew were provided first aid by Coast Guard Medical officer and were taken to Trivandrum Medical College for treatment.