

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:186
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
ALLEGED DETENTION OF INDIAN FISHERMEN
Jayadevan Shri C. N.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attack on and detention of Indian fishermen by countries including Sri Lanka has become a regular feature during the last few months;
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents that have taken place during the last two years along with the number of fishermen detained and released later on after Government intervention, country- wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the respective countries during bilateral talks/other fora;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of these Governments thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. RETD V.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) As of 3 July 2014, the detail of Indian fishermen who have been detained and released by countries, including Sri Lanka, since 2012 are as follows:

Country	2012	2013	2014	as on (03/07/14)
Sri Lanka	197- all released	676- all released	512-detained	495-released
Bangladesh	82- all released	Nil	15- all released	
Pakistan	250- detained	349-detained	212-detained	667-released 390-released 150-released
Maldives	11- all released	Nil	Nil	
Qatar	44- all released	59- all released	13- all released	

(c) to (e) Government attaches the highest importance to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. As soon as the reports of apprehension of Indian fishermen are received, Government, through diplomatic channels, immediately takes up with the Governments concerned the issue of their expeditious release and repatriation. The matter has also been taken up during bilateral meetings with concerned governments at various levels. Government has also emphasized upon the need to ensure humane treatment and that there should be no resort to violence against fishermen under any circumstances. Government remains engaged with the concerned Governments with a view to ensuring that fishermen on both sides can continue to pursue their livelihood in a safe, secure and sustainable manner.