

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3949  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.07.2019

**MISSING VESSEL**

3949. SHRI M. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a ship named 'Deva Matha 2' had set sail from a port in Ernakulam district in Kerala on 12 January, 2019 with 243 people on board heading towards Pacific Ocean and subsequently went missing;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any action to find out the vessel and rescue the people from it; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (d) As per the information made available by the Ministry of Home Affairs, around 105 persons, sailed out of Munambam Harbour in Kerala, on 12.01.2019, on a fishing boat named 'Daya Matha-2'.

The Indian Coast Guard launched an intensive search operation to locate the boat using ships, hovercraft and aircraft. Information related to the case has been shared with the Interpol and other agencies in order to locate the missing boat and its occupants. No information about the whereabouts of the boat has been received as yet.

Criminal cases have been registered by Kerala Police under Sections 468, 471, 109 and 120 B of IPC, 12(1) (a) of Passport Act, 14 A (b) & (c) of the Foreigners Act and 24(1) (a) of Immigration Act and 3 persons who assisted the illegal movement have been arrested. A special team of Kerala police has been constituted for investigation.

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