

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DAIRYING AND FISHERIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3229
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018

SEIZURE OF FISHING VESSELS BY PAKISTAN

3229. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has information regarding seizing of fishing vessels of Indian fishermen by Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has provided any financial assistance to such fishermen whose fishing vessels have been seized by Pakistan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents of seizure of fishing vessels by Pakistan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SMT. KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of External Affairs has informed that as per the information available, there are over thousand Indian Fishing Boats (IFBs) in Pakistans custody.

(c) & (d): The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) under a Non-Plan Scheme on "Soft Loan Package for Replacement of Fishing Vessels held in captivity in Pakistan" provides capital subsidy to the tune of 30% cost of vessel, subject to a ceiling of Rs.6 lakh each vessel for replacement of the fishing vessel seized by Pakistan. The DADF, MoA&FW has so far provided a sum of Rs. 760 lakh to the implementing agency namely, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Department of Commerce and Industry for implementation of the Scheme. MPEDA has reported that financial assistance to 125 beneficiaries has been provided so far by utilizing the funds of Rs. 750 lakh released by DADF, MoA&FW.

(e): Several measures have been taken by Government through various agencies, which mainly include; (i) promulgation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nov, 2016 to prevent transgression of International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) by Indian Fishermen, (ii) developing a Satellite based fishing boat tracking system by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), (iii) regular surveillance sorties and patrols by Indian Navy/Indian Coast Guard Ships/Aircraft and (iv) regular awareness campaigns by Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to advise the fishermen not to cross IMBL for fishing.