

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1813
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

DEATH OF INDIAN FISHERMAN DUE TO FIRING BY SRI LANKAN NAVY

1813. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian fishermen who died or were injured in firing by Sri Lankan Navy in the year 2021 and 2022; and
- (b) the number of those fisherman who were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy; and
- (c) the number of those released and repatriated to India so far?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) As per the available information, in the year 2021 and 2022 no loss of life of Indian fishermen has been reported due to firing by the Sri Lankan Navy. In 2021, there was an injury to one Indian fisherman due to firing by Sri Lankan Navy.

(b) & (c) There have been periodic instances of Indian fishermen apprehended for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters. As per the available information, in 2021 and 2022 (till date), a total of 239 Indian fishermen were arrested (159 in 2021 and 80 in 2022) by the Sri Lankan authorities. With sustained diplomatic efforts, the Government of India has secured the release of all the Indian fishermen arrested in 2021. Out of the 80 Indian fishermen arrested in 2022, GoI has secured the release of 44 Indian fishermen. Out of these 44 fishermen, 29 were repatriated back to India on 10 March 2022. Repatriation of the remaining 15 fishermen is under process. Currently, 36 Indian fishermen are in Sri Lankan custody. Government remains engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka for early release of these fishermen.
