

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2779**  
ANSWERED ON- 19/12/2024

**ARREST OF FISHERMEN BY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

2779. SHRI G.K. VASAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether instances of arrest of Indian fishermen by neighbouring countries have increased during the last three years;
- (b) whether boats and other equipment of Indian fishermen are also confiscated by neighbouring countries; and
- (c) whether Indian fishermen are subjected to inhumane treatment during such detention?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Figures as of 13 December 2024 are tabulated below:

<b>Indian fishermen apprehended by authorities of neighbouring countries</b>						
Year	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Bangladesh	Saudi Arabia	Bahrain	Qatar
2022	268	132	184	107	9	25
2023	240	9	04	124	10	34
2024	543	27	95	25	37	26

(b) Figures as of 13 December 2024 are tabulated below:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Indian boats confiscated</b>
Sri Lanka	203 in total; 73 in 2024
Pakistan	As per available information, there are 1173 boats seized by Pakistan. However, Government of Pakistan does not acknowledge the number of boats seized by it
Bangladesh	06 in 2024

(c) Government of India attaches highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. The Government has been taking up all fishermen related issues with respective governments through diplomatic channels, various official interactions and established bilateral mechanisms. In all our interactions, it is conveyed that the issues related to fishermen may be considered purely on humanitarian and livelihood grounds and that the use of force should be avoided in all circumstances. Further, our Missions and Consulates in respective countries make regular visits to local jails and detention centers to ascertain the condition of Indian fishermen and provide requisite help and support, including legal assistance. Our Missions also provide necessary travel documents to facilitate repatriation of released fishermen to India.

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