

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1046
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

FISHERMEN DETAINED IN OTHER COUNTRIES

1046. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian fishermen detained in other countries as of 1st January, 2025;
- (b) whether Government had taken any steps to release these fishermen from detention;
- (c) if so, the number of fishermen released as of 1st January, 2025; and
- (d) if not the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The information is placed below:

Country	Number of Indian fishermen in detention as on 1st January 2025
Bahrain	4
Pakistan	217
Saudi Arabia	28
Sri Lanka	58

(b) Government of India attaches high priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. The fishermen issue is dealt with in a bilateral manner and the Government has been taking up such issues, including the early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen and fishing boats, with respective governments through diplomatic channels, various official interactions and established bilateral mechanisms. The matter of early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen is consistently raised with respective countries at all levels and it is conveyed that this issue may be considered purely on humanitarian and livelihood grounds. Further, our Missions and Posts in respective countries make regular visits to local jails and detention centres to ascertain the condition of Indian fishermen and provide requisite help and support, including legal assistance. They also provide necessary travel documents to facilitate repatriation of released fishermen to India.

(c & d) The information is placed below:

Country	Number of Indian fishermen released in 2024
Bahrain	47
Bangladesh	95
Qatar	29
Saudi Arabia	27
Sri Lanka	479
