

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2339
ANSWERED ON- 20/03/2025

NEW AGREEMENT WITH SRI LANKA

2339. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to ink a new agreement with Sri Lanka to facilitate fishing for Indians near Katchatheevu and to resolve the persistent fishermen issues, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Union Government has received any representations from the State Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a & b) At present, there is no proposal under discussion between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka for facilitating fishing by Indian fishermen near Katchatheevu. Representations received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu are related mostly to the release of Indian fishermen apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

Government of India attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. The Government has been taking up these issues with Government of Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels, various official interactions and established bilateral mechanisms, such as the regular meetings of the Joint Working Group on fisheries, which includes representatives from the Government of Tamil Nadu. The last JWG meeting on fisheries was held on 29 October 2024.
