

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1477
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2017**

JOINT WORKING GROUP ON FISHERMEN

1477. SHRI P. KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Sri Lanka have reached on an agreement on establishing a joint working group on fisheries to resolve the disputes between fishermen of both the countries; and**
- (b) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

(a) & (b) The launch of the 2+2 initiative in November 2016, when the Foreign and Fisheries Ministers of the two countries met in New Delhi, marked the setting up of a bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) mechanism to address the fishermen issues in a comprehensive manner. During the meeting, it was also agreed that Ministers for Fisheries of the two countries meet every six months to review the progress. So far three rounds of the JWG meeting have been held. The 3rd meeting of the JWG and the 2nd Ministerial meeting held on 13 October and 14 October 2017 respectively in New Delhi took stock of the measures taken by both sides to address the fishermen issues pending a permanent solution.
