

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 607**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

**INJURY OF A FISHERMAN IN PALK BAY**

607. DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a fisherman was injured while fishing in Palk Bay in firing of warning shots by Indian Navy in the early hours of 21.10.2022;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has demanded to exercise extreme caution while dealing with Indian fishermen in Indian waters by National security agencies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Indian Navy Ship Bangaram was deployed in Palk Bay {near India - Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)} for ensuring security of coastal areas of Tamil Nadu as well as the Indian fishing boats operating in the area. At about 0215h on 21 Oct 22, the naval ship detected two trawlers secured with each other operating very close to India - Sri Lanka IMBL. The trawlers were observed throwing articles/ packages in water. The naval ship challenged both the suspicious trawlers using signal projector/ LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device) in both Tamil and English language. Consequently, both the trawlers disengaged, increased speed and manoeuvred to evade from the naval ship. One of the trawlers altered East and crossed over to the Sri Lankan side of IMBL. The second trawler altered on Westerly heading inside Indian side of IMBL and was pursued by the naval ship from 0230h to 0330h. The trawler did not heed to repeated warnings (both in Tamil and English) and at about 0330h, based on the suspicious actions by the trawler especially its approach towards Indian territory,

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which was construed as a threat to security, warning shots were fired by the ship across the bows of the trawler in accordance with the established procedures. The trawler {later identified as Indian flagged trawler SV Sadana (Regd No. IND-TN-06MM831)} stopped at about 0415h and indicated to the naval ship that one personnel onboard had sustained injury. Prompt medical assistance was provided by the ship to stabilise the injured fisherman onboard the trawler. Concurrently, HQTNA was requested for aerial casualty evacuation, and the injured fisherman was evacuated by the Navy's Chetak helicopter at 0640h off Rameshwaram and was subsequently shifted to General Hospital, Madurai on 21 Oct 22.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): Formal investigation by a Board of Inquiry (BoI) has been ordered. In addition, interactions with local fishing community have been carried out by Naval authorities, wherein fishermen have been sensitised to the prevailing security environment in the area and the need to work in tandem with Indian Naval ships for maintaining their safety and security.

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