

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1453
ANSWERED ON- 28/07/2023

COMPENSATION TO FISHERMEN

1453. SHRI A. RAJA
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the issue of increasing attacks on fishermen of Tamil Nadu by the navy of Srilanka;
- (b) whether payment of compensation to fishermen whose boats were damaged has been considered, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether meeting of Joint Working Group on Fisheries was called to discuss the issues threadbare and to find a permanent solution to the problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof if not, the reason therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to d) Government of India attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. Government has taken up the fishermen issues at the highest level, including by the Prime Minister in his meetings with his Sri Lankan counterparts. Sri Lankan Government has been requested to treat the fishermen issue as a purely humanitarian and livelihood concern, and it has been stressed that both sides should ensure that there is no use of force under any circumstances.

Regular meetings of Joint Working Group Meeting on Fisheries are being held with respect to issues related to fishermen. Recent JWG on fisheries was held in March 2022 between both sides. The Joint Working Group discussed all relevant fisheries issues in detail including the concerns relating to fishermen and fishing boats which have been on the agenda of bilateral discussions between India and Sri Lanka.
