

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1556
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2019

INDIAN FISHERMEN IN BANGLADESH CUSTODY

1556. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Indian fishermen were in the custody of Bangladesh police for allegedly violating the Bangladesh laws pertaining to fishing and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a BSF personnel was killed during the flag meeting and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of measures taken by the Ministry to educate the fishermen about the laws of the sea, boundary in the sea, etc. in view of the fact that many Indian fishermen unknowingly have become the victims of such ignorance?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

- (a) Government is aware that 64 Indian fishermen are lodged in jails of Bangladesh on charges of illegally fishing in Bangladesh's territorial waters.
- (b) On 17 Oct 2019, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) intercepted one Indian boat with three (03) Indian fishermen. After the scheduled Flag Meeting between the border guarding forces, when Indian party was returning, one BSF Head Constable was killed allegedly through firing from a BGB personnel. An enquiry has been constituted by each side separately to look into the circumstances of this incident.
- (c) Government has notified fishermen and the boat owning companies not to venture toward Bangladesh's waters, especially during months when Bangladesh has a strict ban in force on fishing for high-value "Hilsa" fish, as this ban is enforced strictly within the territory of Bangladesh.
