

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-793

ANSWERED ON- 29/11/2024

INDIAN SAILORS MISSING IN KUWAIT

793. SHRI K SUDHAKARAN

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

(a) whether the Government has received representations from Hon'ble MP of Kannur seeking intervention of Hon'ble Minister in finding the whereabouts of the missing sailors, particularly a marine engineer from Kannur, Kerala, aboard the vessel Ara Bakthar 1, that sank off the coast of the Persian Gulf in Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any progress in locating the whereabouts of the missing sailors including the said engineer and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Minister of External Affairs has personally made any appeal to the Kuwait authorities to expedite the process of investigation;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government is unable to provide clarity to the family of the missing sailors including the said engineer and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) Ministry has received representations from Hon'ble MP of Kannur for finding the whereabouts of the missing sailors, particularly a marine engineer from Kannur, Kerala, aboard the vessel Ara Bakthar 1 which sank off the coast of the Persian Gulf in Kuwait.

(c) The Kuwaiti authorities recovered four bodies out of six crew members of the ship (three crew members were Indian nationals), of which two were eventually identified to be Indian nationals. The mortal remains of these two Indian nationals were brought back to India. The whereabouts of the marine engineer from Kannur, Kerala, is not yet known.

(d & e) Under the supervision of the office of the External Affairs Minister, the Embassy of India in Kuwait has constantly pursued with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait and other

concerned authorities in Kuwait regarding the whereabouts of the missing Indian sailors and for expediting the identification of the recovered bodies, including that of the marine engineer from Kannur, Kerala.

(f) The whereabouts of the marine engineer from Kannur, Kerala, have not been located thus far by the Kuwaiti authorities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait has conveyed that the DNA samples sent by the family of the marine engineer from Kannur, Kerala, did not match with any of the recovered bodies. The Kuwaiti authorities have also informed Embassy of India, Kuwait, on 5 November 2024 that they have stopped the search and rescue operations.
