

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2376

ANSWERED ON 13/02/2026

TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA

2376. SHRI RAJA A

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

(a) the details of talks held between India and Sri Lanka during the recent visits of Foreign Ministers and Secretaries;

(b) whether the issues of Indian fishermen being harassed and arrested at high seas, on the borders of India-Sri Lanka were discussed and if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the issue of Constitutional reforms in Sri Lanka constitution affecting the Tamils interest was raised, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the diplomatic action taken or proposed to be taken to protect the interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) The Minister of External Affairs visited Sri Lanka as Prime Minister's Special Envoy on 22-23 December 2025. During the visit, a comprehensive relief package worth USD 450 million to assist Sri Lanka in its rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah was announced. EAM engaged with Sri Lankan leadership on a variety of bilateral issues, including the effective implementation of India's relief assistance for the benefit of the people of Sri Lanka.

The issue of Indian fishermen, who are arrested from time to time by Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in Sri Lankan waters is regularly discussed between the two countries. The Government has consistently taken up with Sri Lankan authorities the early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen and fishing boats, as well as the fines imposed, and stressed that this issue be considered purely on humanitarian and livelihood grounds and that the use of force be avoided under all

circumstances. Concerted efforts of the Government have so far resulted in the release and repatriation of 3704 Indian fishermen since May 2014.

The Government of India has, in its interactions with the Government of Sri Lanka, consistently called for the full and effective implementation of the Sri Lankan Constitution, and the early holding of Provincial Council elections. It has been stressed that meaningful devolution and genuine reconciliation through an inclusive approach would help build a future that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of Sri Lankan society, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, for a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity within a united Sri Lanka.
