

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-32**  
**ANSWERED ON-23.04.2015**  
Indian fishing boats captured by Pakistan

32 . Shri Paul Manoj Pandian

- (a) whether 801 Indian fishing boats captured by Pakistan in the past are now untraceable and there is no hope for bringing them back;
- (b) whether Government has taken up with Pakistan Government any new initiative to trace the above boats;
- (c) whether it is also true that on March 5, 2015 the Pakistan authorities have captured 46 Indian fishermen; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to get them released from Pakistan's captivity?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) As per available information, there are 823 boats belonging to Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody; Pakistan does not acknowledge the number of boats of Indian fishermen in their custody. In May 2014, on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to India to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Government, Pakistan announced release of 57 boats which were repatriated on 23 March 2015 after consistent efforts by the Government.

Government continuously monitors the status of all Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails and regularly takes up the issue of their early release and repatriation along with their boats with the Pakistan authorities.

Government has taken up the matter of apprehension of 45 Indian fishermen on 5 March 2015 with the Government of Pakistan and requested Consular Access to them. Pakistan's response is awaited.

\*\*\*\*\*