

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1291**  
**ANSWERED ON-27.07.2017**  
Fishermen and boats detained by Pakistan

1291 Shri K. R. Arjunan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has detained more than hundred Indian fishermen and eighteen fishing trawlers on 26th March, 2017;
- (b) if so, the details thereto;
- (c) whether Government has taken up this issue with the Government of Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) As per the available reports, more than hundred Indian fishermen along with 19 boats were apprehended by Pakistan authorities in the intervening night of 25 and 26 March 2017.

(c) & (d) Upon receiving the report, Government, through diplomatic channels, raised the issue of detention of these Indian fishermen along with their boats with Pakistan Government on 27 March 2017. Pakistan was asked to provide consular access and expedite the release and repatriation of these fishermen along with their boats. There was no immediate response from the Pakistan side.

Subsequently, as per the list provided by Government of Pakistan on 1 July 2017 under bi-annual exchange of lists of Prisoners between India and Pakistan, it acknowledged custody of 494 fishermen believed to be Indian in Pakistani Jails. Due to persistent efforts of the Government, 77 Indian fishermen were released and repatriated on 10 July 2017 by Pakistan. Government continues to take up with Pakistan authorities, the matter of early consular access, release and repatriation of the remaining fishermen along with their boats.