

(b) whether the Sri Lankan Navy took away the captured fish and the mobile phones of the fishermen, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken up this issue as well during the talks held on 27th January, 2014, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) As per available information, on 21st January, 2014, 25 Indian fishermen and their six fishing vessels were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

(c) As soon as the report of apprehension of Indian fishermen was received, Government, through diplomatic channels, took up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities. As a result of its efforts, Government secured the release of 25 fishermen and their six fishing vessels on 25th January, 2014. Government attaches the highest importance to the welfare, safety and security of Indian fishermen and continues to remain engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that fishermen on both sides can continue to pursue their livelihood in a safe, secure and sustainable manner.

#### **Bilateral cooperation agreement with Japan**

2372. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral co-operation agreements with Japan in various sectors have been reviewed recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the extent to which such bilateral agreements have enhanced the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe visited India recently from 25-27 January, 2014. In the run up to the visit, Government took stock of all ongoing cooperation mechanisms and projects between the two countries, including existing Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding. Economic cooperation between India and Japan is expanding steadily. India is the largest recipient of Japanese Official Development Assistance, a part of which continues to be used in big infrastructure projects like the Delhi- Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.