

Recently, during an adjournment debate the Sri Lankan Parliament is reported to have discussed some steps to be taken to find a solution to the fishermen issue, including through dialogue and some preventive measures. However, there has been no law passed so far by the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard.

Government has, repeatedly, taken up the fishermen issue with Sri Lanka, including at the highest levels. During their interactions with their Sri Lankan counterparts, Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister have pointed out that the issue of fishermen is an emotive and complex one, involving livelihood, longstanding socio-economic practices and humanitarian concerns on both sides and thus needs to be handled with great care and sensitivity. They also strongly emphasized the need to ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy acts with restraint, does not use force under any circumstance and that all fishermen are treated in a humane manner. Sri Lanka has requested for an end to bottom trawling in the immediate term since it is affecting fish stocks and marine ecology close to the Sri Lankan shores.

Government 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.

Resolving of issues by India and Pakistan

1293. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan decided to jointly resolve sensitive issues like ceasefire violations and infiltration along the border by initiating timely exchange of information and inked some new confidence-building measures, If so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the issues of incidents of firing at the borders, smuggling of narcotics and defence construction activities were discussed during the meetings, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the sides agreed for constant endeavour to maintain peaceful and tranquil borders and also agreed to stop ceasefire along the line of the International Border (IB) through enhanced communication; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan on

10 July 2015, on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Ufa (Russia). During the meeting, the two sides agreed on a meeting in New Delhi between the two NSAs to discuss all issues connected to terrorism, an early meeting of Directors General of Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers followed by that of the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs), and discussions on ways and means to expedite the Mumbai case trial including additional information like providing voice samples. In addition, decision was also taken for release of fishermen in each other's custody along with their boats within a period of 15 days and establishing a mechanism for facilitating religious tourism.

(b) to (d) Directors General of BSF and Pakistan Rangers met from 9-12 September 2015 in New Delhi. The meeting covered the entire gamut of border management issues that traditionally figure in the regular bi-annual Directors General of BSF and Pakistan Rangers meetings. In particular, detailed discussions were held on mechanisms enhancing safety and security of border force personnel and civilian populations along the border, improved coordination between the BSF and Pakistan Rangers and expeditious release of civilians inadvertently straying across the International Border (IB). The two sides agreed to the need for enhanced communication between commanders of the two forces at all levels and establishing mechanisms to enhance exchange of information between the two forces to combat smuggling and trafficking of narcotics, Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN), arms and ammunition.

Extradition treaty with foreign countries

1294. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the countries with which India has got an extradition treaty;
- (b) whether India is yet to formalise an extradition treaty with Indonesia; if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Indian does not need a formal extradition treaty for somebody to be extradited to another country from India, if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) India has signed extradition treaties with the following countries:

Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea,