

(d) India's decision not to participate was based on its independent national security and foreign policy assessment.

Defining urban areas

1139. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for new method to define urban areas;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that as per Census of 2011, only 32.1 per cent area falls under urban category, going by scientific definition India was 63 per cent urban in 2015;
- (c) whether due to rapid urbanizations, these traditional measures are inadequate to capture the complex phenomenon, especially when we study this at the state or local level; and
- (d) if so, the steps being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) Presently, there is no proposal in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to change the definition of urban areas.

(b) As per the Census, 2011, published by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, the percentage of urban population is 31.2%.

(c) and (d) The Registrar General, India has defined urban areas in different categories *viz.* Statutory Town, Census Town, City, Urban Agglomeration and Out Growth in Census 2011. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs follows the categorization as defined by the Registrar General, India.

India as sponsorer of Karachi Literature Festival

1140. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India was one of the sponsorers of Karachi Literature Festival;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has financed the visit of many Indian authors and publishers to the said festival; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) ICCR provided travel support to the following:

- (i) Ms. Mamang Dai
- (ii) Ms. Preeti Shenoy
- (iii) Ms. Urvashi Butalia
- (iv) Mr. Saif Mahmood

Release of fishermen by Sri Lankan and Pakistani Navies

†1141. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian fishermen detained by Pakistani and Sri Lankan navies who were fishing in the territorial waters of the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of Indian fishermen currently kept in custody by Sri Lankan and Pakistani navies;

(c) the steps taken towards release of such Indian fishermen kept in custody of Sri Lanka and Pakistan and the number of fishermen released during the last three years; and

(d) the number of requests received at various level to get fishermen released and to bring them back to our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The details of Indian fishermen detained by Sri Lanka and Pakistan during the last three years are given below:

Sl. No.	Year	No of fishermen arrested	
		Sri Lanka	Pakistan
1	2	3	4
1.	2014	787	435
2.	2015	454	370

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.