

**Humanitarian service in neighbouring countries**

535. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ambulance service provided by India to all provinces of Sri Lanka is a useful and welcome project for Sri Lankan public;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to provide such humanitarian service to other neighbouring countries also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Ambulance service provided by India has been well appreciated by the Sri Lankan Government and people. It has become one of our flagship projects with the island-wide impact. The service also received widespread appreciation during the time of disaster relief.

(b) India's development/humanitarian assistance to our neighbouring countries is based on their developmental priorities and requests made to Government of India. As and when such requests are received, they will be considered appropriately.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Travel advisory by other countries**

536. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many developed and developing countries have issued travel advisories for their nationals travelling to India in view of the protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has tried to convince those countries which issued travel advisory for their nationals that the situation in the country is normal as in other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) No country has issued an advisory to its citizens advising them not to travel to India. A few countries have issued routine circulars as per their usual practice.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka**

537. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has data about the total number of Indian fishermen arrested, detained, tortured and imprisoned by the Sri Lankan Navy violating all international treaties and bilateral treaty in the past one decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any new steps to resolve this everlasting Indian fishermen issues that exists along the Indo-Sri Lankan waters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) Indian fishermen are arrested from time to time by the Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in Sri Lankan waters. During the past one decade (2010-2020 till 2 February, 2020), 3470 Indian fishermen were arrested at different times in Sri Lanka. Out of which, 3450 fishermen have already been released due to the sustained diplomatic efforts of the Government. As on 2 February 2020, 20 Indian fishermen are in Sri Lankan custody. Year-wise data is given below:-

Year	Fishermen arrested	Fishermen released
2010	26	26
2011	198	198
2012	197	197
2013	676	676
2014	787	787