

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0118) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 114-115) asked:

How many Tamils have been involuntarily sent back to Sri Lanka? How many of the Tamils that were involuntarily returned were from the north of Sri Lanka?

Answer:

Between October 2008 and 1 February 2013, 750 Sri Lankan Irregular Maritime Arrivals were involuntarily removed. Of these, 134 claimed to be of Tamil ethnicity. The Department does not record in a consolidated manner the region of Sri Lanka from which the removee originated.