

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-524
ANSWERED ON-27.11.2014

Identity of individuals in Pakistans custody as Indian nationals

524 . Smt. Viplove Thakur

(a) whether Government has been informed by the Pakistan Government about a number of individuals in their custody who they believe to be Indian nationals, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has not been able to establish the national identity of these individuals in the absence of sufficient detail and information of their background and place of permanent residence; and

(c) if so, the steps/being taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) As per the list provided by the Pakistani authorities on 01 July 2014 under the bilateral Consular Access Agreement 2008, there are 48 civil prisoners and 247 fishermen believed to be Indians in Pakistani jails. Out of the 48 civil prisoners, the Indian nationality status in respect of 24 civil prisoners has been confirmed. The other 24 civil prisoners are mentally challenged . Of the 247 fishermen, the Indian nationality status in respect of 210 fishermen has been confirmed so far while one fisherman was not found to be Indian during verification. Nationality Status confirmation is under process in respect of the remaining 36 fishermen.

Since the mentally challenged prisoners were not able to provide details about themselves during Consular Access, their available details (names along with their photographs) have been placed on the website of the High Commission of India, Islamabad to help in their expeditious identification.

Government regularly takes up with the Pakistan authorities the issue of the early release and repatriation of all such prisoners as well as providing regular consular access to them. Government of India also, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of all such Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. The India-Pakistan Judicial Committee consisting of retired judges from both countries visits jails in both countries to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen, who have completed their prison term.
