

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-529
ANSWERED ON-27.11.2014
Releasing of prisoners by India and Pakistan

529 . Shri Ramdas Athawale

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have released each other's prisoners during the last three years till date;
(b) if so, the number of prisoners released by each country, category-wise and year-wise as on date; and
(c) whether talks have been held to secure the release of remaining prisoners and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The numbers of Indian prisoners released by Pakistan and Pakistani prisoners released by India in the last three years are as follows (as of 21 November 2014):

2011 2012 2013 2014

Indian civil prisoners released by Pakistan 13 26 38 1

Indian fishermen released by Pakistan 103 677 390 150

Pakistani civil prisoners released by India 102 50 38 23

Pakistani fishermen released by India 121 64 28 77

Government regularly takes up with the Pakistani authorities the issue of early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners as well as providing them regular consular access. Government of India also, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of all Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. An India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners comprising retired Judges from the higher judiciary of both countries has also been constituted to look at humanitarian issues and ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen, who have completed their prison term.
