

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-174
ANSWERED ON-25.02.2016
Indian lodged in jails of Pakistan

174 . Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians currently lodged in jails of Pakistan and since when, the details thereof for less than five years, more than five years but less than ten years, more than ten years but less than fifteen years, and more than fifteen years;
- (b) whether our consulates in Pakistan have all relevant details of all the Indian prisoners and whether they extend all legal/financial support to such prisoners, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of Indian fishermen detained/in jails in Pakistan, as of now, and the efforts made to secure their release?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) According to available information, 392 Indian fishermen and 53 Indian civil prisoners are lodged in the custody of Pakistan.

The number of such Indian fishermen and civil prisoners, whose nationality is confirmed, is as follows:

Indians lodged in Pakistani Jails Fishermen Civil Prisoners Total

Less than 5 years 174 6 180

More than 5 years but less than 10 years - 3 3

More than 15 years - 3 3

Without any details of sentence/period

- 2 2

Total 174 14 188

The number of fishermen and civil prisoners in Pakistan's custody whose nationality is yet to be confirmed and who are believed to be Indian, is as follows:

Believed-to-be Indians lodged in Pakistani Jails			
Fishermen	Civil Prisoners	Total	
Less than 5 years	218	19	237
More than 5 years but less than 10 years	11	11	
More than 15 years	2	2	
Without any details of sentence/period	7	7	
Total	218	39	257

As per India-Pakistan 'Agreement on Consular Access' signed on 21 May 2008, separate lists of civil prisoners and fishermen of each country lodged in the jails of the other country are exchanged on 1 January and 1 July of every year.

Government regularly takes up with the Pakistan authorities the issue of early release and repatriation of apprehended Indian prisoners and fishermen as well as getting regular consular access to them and ensuring their welfare. Government also, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of all such Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails.

In addition to the above, 74 Missing Defence Personnel including 54 Prisoners of War are believed to be in Pakistani jails since 1971. Government has repeatedly taken up with Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels and during high-level contacts the matter of their release. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any Indian Prisoner of War in its custody.