

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-177
ANSWERED ON-25.02.2016
Prisoners of War lodged in Pakistani jails

177 . Shri Gulam Rasool Balyawi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Prisoners of War still lodged in the Pakistani jails, as per the latest figures available with Government; and
- (b) the latest steps taken by Government to bring them back?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) According to available information, 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 release of Indian Prisoners of War believed to be in Pakistan. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any Indian Prisoner of War in its custody.

During the visit of the then External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in January 2007, Pakistan government was persuaded to receive a delegation of relatives of Missing Defence Personnel to permit them to visit prisons in Pakistan, where they are believed to be incarcerated. A delegation of relatives, accordingly, visited 10 jails in Pakistan from June 1-14, 2007. The delegation could not conclusively confirm the physical presence of any Indian Prisoners of War. Pursuant to the visit of the delegation of relatives of Missing Defence Personnel, a tri-Service Committee for monitoring matters on the subject was formed in the Ministry of Defence.

The matter was raised with Pakistan at India-Pakistan Home/Interior Secretary talks held in Islamabad on May 24-25, 2012 and India-Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks in New Delhi on July 4-5, 2012. However, there has been no change in Pakistan's official position mentioned above