

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-416
ANSWERED ON-21.07.2016
Indians in jails of Pakistan

416 . Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians are lodged in Pakistan jails, till 1st March, 2016, and since how long, with details; and

(b) how many of them have been languishing in jails for petty crimes like crossing the border etc., and efforts made by Government to seek their release from jails and bringing back to India, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per the list exchanged between the Governments of India and Pakistan on 1st July 2016, there are in total 518 prisoners (463 fishermen and 55 civil prisoners) who are Indian or believed-to-be Indian in Pakistani jails.

The time since when they have been imprisoned has been tabulated below:

Prisoners who are Indian or believed-to-be Indians	Fishermen	Civil Prisoners	Total
Less than 5 years	463		

(all fishermen are in Pakistani jails since less than 1 year) 25 488

More than 5 years but less than 10 years 0 18 18

More than 10 years but less than 15 years 0 3 3

More than 15 years 0 2 2

Without any details of sentence/period 0 7 7

Total 463 55 518

Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails have been variously charged under relevant sections of Pakistan's domestic penal and criminal laws. The fishermen are generally charged with transgressing into Pakistan's territorial waters.

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 looks at humanitarian issues and recommends measures for humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen, who have completed their prison terms.

Due to Government's efforts, 190 fishermen and 1 civil prisoner have been released by Pakistan in 2016, so far. In 2015, 335 fishermen and 57 Indian fishing boats were released by Pakistani authorities.