

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2806
ANSWERED ON-11.08.2016
Fishermen from Gujarat in jails of Pakistan

2806 Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many fishermen of Gujarat are in Pakistan jails;
- (b) how many fishermen of Pakistan are in Indian jails; and
- (c) whether Government is taking steps to release of fishermen of Gujarat from the jails of Pakistan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) to (c) According to available information, as on 01st July 2016, 392 fishermen are in Pakistani jails who are Indian or believed-to-be Indian. State-wise breakup is not available since consular access and nationality verification of all prisoners have not taken place. Government has asked Pakistani authorities to provide early consular access to the remaining fishermen who are believed-to-be Indian. As per the list exchanged on 1st July 2016, 37 Pakistani fishermen are in Indian jails.

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. Due to Government's efforts, 190 Indian fishermen have been released by Pakistan in 2016, so far. In 2015, 335 Indian fishermen were released by Pakistani authorities.