

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-976
ANSWERED ON-09.03.2017
Indian national languishing in jail of Pakistan

976 . Shri Majeed Memon

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an Indian national named Hamid Ansari is languishing in prison of Pakistan for many years without any charges pending against him;
- (b) whether Government is going to take necessary steps to secure his release and bring him back to India; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government, if any, or proposed to be taken to ensure his early release?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) According to available information, Shri Hamid Nehal Ansari, an Indian citizen has been in custody of the Pakistani authorities since November 2012. The matter was repeatedly taken up with the Pakistan authorities and Shri Ansari's custody was formally acknowledged by them in February 2014. However, despite repeated requests at various levels, the Government of Pakistan has neither granted consular access nor provided details about the charges leveled against him.

According to the reports in Pakistan's media, Shri Ansari was tried by Pakistani Military Court and sentenced to three years of imprisonment.

The Government continues to seek consular access and has requested the Pakistan authorities to ensure safety and security of Shri Ansari while in Prison. We have also conveyed to Pakistan that according to our understanding Shri Ansari has already completed three years sentence and that he should be released and repatriated at the earliest.