

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1302
ANSWERED ON-27.07.2017
Pakistani civil prisoners in Indian jails

1302 Shri Ranjib Biswal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has alleged that India had deliberately delayed the release of Pakistani civilian prisoners;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the number of Pakistani prisoners released during the last one year and the current year and the number of prisoners still in Indian jails;
- (d) the number of Indian civilians prisoners released by Pakistan during the above period and the number of prisoners still languishing in Pakistani Jails; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to get them released?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Government is aware of such false and malicious allegations levied from time to time. As per the established procedure Pakistani prisoners, including fishermen, are released and repatriated regularly upon fulfillment of necessary procedure and formalities, including completion of sentence; confirmation of nationality and issuance of valid travel documents by Pakistan authorities.

(c) The numbers of Pakistani prisoners released and repatriated by India over the past year are as below:-

Year Civilian Prisoners Fishermen

2016 10 9

2017

(as on 25 July 2017) 42 22

As per the available information, there are currently 257 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 74 Pakistani fishermen lodged in Indian Jails.

(d) The numbers of the Indian prisoners released and repatriated by Pakistan over the past year are as below:-

Year	Civilian Prisoners	Fishermen
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2016	2	410
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2017		
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(as on 25 July 2017)	5	295
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As per the available information, including the list provided by Pakistan on 1 July 2017, there are 52 Indian and believed to be Indian civilian prisoners and 417 Indian and believed to be Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody. Besides, there is the matter of 74 missing Indian defence personnel, whose custody has not been acknowledged by Pakistan so far.

Government regularly takes up with the Pakistan authorities, the issue of early consular access as well as early and expeditious release and repatriation of Indian prisoners in Pakistan's custody. Due to persistent efforts, Government has secured the release and repatriation of 1356 Indian prisoners, including fishermen, since 2014.