

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-654
ANSWERED ON-08.02.2018
Indians lodged in Pakistani jails

654 . Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians currently lodged in jails in Pakistan and since when, the details thereof for less than five years, more than five years but less than ten years, more than ten years but less than fifteen years, and more than fifteen years;
- (b) whether our consulates in Pakistan have relevant details of all Indian prisoners and whether they extend all legal/financial support to such prisoners and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of Indian's fishermen detained in jails in Pakistan, as of now, and the efforts made to secure their release?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per available information, presently 341 Indian fishermen and 63 Indian civilian prisoners are believed to be in Pakistan's custody. However, as per the lists exchanged between the Governments of India and Pakistan on 1 January 2018, Pakistan has acknowledged custody of 253 fishermen and 58 civilian prisoners who are Indian or believed-to-be Indian in its jails.

According to available information, the time since they are believed to be in Pakistan's custody is as below:

Prisoners who are Indian or believed-to-be Indian	Fishermen	Civilian Prisoners	Total
Less than 5 years	341		
(all fishermen are in Pakistan jails since less than 1 year)	32	373	
More than 5 years but less than 10 years	0	17	17
More than 10 years but less than 15 years	0	11	11
More than 15 years	0	02	02
Without any details of sentence/period	0	01	01
Total	341	63	404

In addition, there is the issue of 74 Missing Indian Defence personnel, whose custody has not been acknowledged by Pakistan so far.

Government consistently pursues the case of early release and repatriation of the Indian nationals languishing in Pakistan jails. In addition, the High Commission of India in Islamabad, on a continuing basis, provides humanitarian and legal assistance to Indian nationals imprisoned in Pakistan, including regular distribution of items of daily necessity to them through Pakistani jail authorities. As a result of persistent efforts, Government has secured the release and repatriation of 1697 Indian fishermen and 19 Indian civilian prisoners from Pakistan since 2014.