

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4342
ANSWERED ON-05.04.2018

Female and elderly prisoners in jails of Pakistan

4342 Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya

- (a) whether Government has taken up the matter with Pakistan Government regarding exchange of female and elderly prisoners;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details regarding female and elderly prisoners presently in Pakistan jails;
- (d) whether any of such prisoners belong to Rajasthan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The External Affairs Minister, in October 2017, suggested to the High Commissioner of Pakistan that the two sides could work together to resolve humanitarian issues related to elderly, women and mentally unsound prisoners in each other's custody and consider their early release and repatriation. It was, inter alia, proposed that a team of medical experts could be allowed to visit the mentally unsound prisoners with a view to facilitate their nationality verification and subsequent repatriation. The External Affairs Minister also suggested revival of the Joint Judicial Committee which looked into the issues of fishermen and prisoners in each other's custody and had last met in October 2013.

The Government of Pakistan, on 7 March 2018, responded positively to the suggestion.

(c) to (e) As per available information, there are five (5) civilian female prisoners and two (2) civilian prisoner above the age of 60 years, who are presently in Pakistan's custody and believed-to-be Indian nationals. One of these civilian prisoners Mr Ghanjan alias Gazanand, aged 66 years, is believed to be from the State of Rajasthan.