

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.202**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.05.2016

**INDIANS IN FOREIGN JAILS**

\*202. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Indian prisoners in different countries;
- (b) whether Government has taken action to get free those prisoners; and
- (c) the details of action plan of Government with the counterparts for speedy trials and quick judgements therein?

**ANSWER**  
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 202 REGARDING “INDIANS IN FOREIGN JAILS” FOR ANSWER ON 12.05.2016**

(a) Due to the strict provisions of their privacy laws, many Western countries do not share information about foreign nationals who are in their jails. However, as per the information gathered by our Missions/Posts abroad, 6804 Indian nationals are currently lodged in foreign jails. A country-wise list showing the number of Indians lodged in foreign prisons as on date is attached – Annexure.

(b) & (c) Indian Missions/Posts abroad always strive to respond promptly to the requests/appeals by Indian citizens in distress. As soon as the information about detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by the Indian Mission/Post, it gets in touch with the local Foreign Office and other concerned local authorities to get consular access to the detained/arrested Indian national to confirm his Indian nationality and ensure his welfare. In some countries where pro bono lawyers are available, the Mission arranges such legal assistance to the Indian prisoners. Government of India also provides initial legal assistance to distressed Indian nationals in deserving cases.

Steps taken by our Missions include requesting local authorities for speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails, issue of emergency certificates and repatriation to India of those who are released. In some countries, our Mission also requests the local government for grant of amnesty to the arrested Indians and if any mercy petition for remission of sentences is received from the family members of the Indian prisoners, the Mission forwards them to the local authorities for consideration. India has signed Treaties for Transfer of Sentenced Persons with 35 countries, under which Indian prisoners have been brought back to India from some of these countries.

In those cases where Indian nationals complete their sentences and are waiting for completion of deportation formalities, Indian Missions and Posts in those countries take up with the respective foreign governments the speeding up of the process, including issue of final Exit Visas, waiver of penalties imposed on Indian workers, etc. from the concerned authorities and for the early return of the Indian nationals to India. Where required, the Indian Missions and Posts abroad also provide airfares for facilitating the return of the Indian prisoners who have completed their sentences to India.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Indians in Foreign Jails

Sl. No.	Name of Country	No. of prisoners	Sl. No.	Name of Country	No. of prisoners
1	Algeria	3	37	Lebanon	7
2	Armenia	1	38	Malaysia	356
3	Australia	45	39	Maldives	16
4	Austria	5	40	Malta	1
5	Azerbaijan	1	41	Mauritius	8
6	Bahrain	107	42	Mexico	2
7	Bangladesh	137	43	Myanmar	47
8	Belgium	24	44	Nepal	859
9	Bhutan	39	45	New Zealand	13
10	Brunei Darussalam	2	46	Nicaragua	1
11	Cambodia	2	47	Niger	1
12	Canada	50	48	Nigeria	13
13	China	161	49	Oman	113
14	Colombia	5	50	Pakistan	230
15	Cuba	2	51	Panama	2
16	Cyprus	2	52	Philippines	5
17	Denmark	8	53	Portugal	4
18	Egypt	3	54	Qatar	129
19	Ethiopia	2	55	Russian Federation	6
20	Fiji	1	56	Saudi Arabia	1696
21	France	48	57	Senegal	1
22	Germany	59	58	Seychelles	1
23	Georgia	1	59	Singapore	115
24	Greece	27	60	Slovak Republic	2
25	Hungary	1	61	South Africa	13
26	Indonesia	19	62	Spain	52
27	Iran	33	63	Sri Lanka	32
28	Ireland	1	64	Tanzania	1
29	Israel	13	65	Thailand	63
30	Italy	66	66	Togo	6
31	Japan	7	67	United Arab Emirates	1143
32	Jordan	2	68	United Kingdom	356
33	Kenya	5	69	USA	188
34	Korea (Republic of)	3	70	Uzbekistan	1
35	Kuwait	434	71	Yemen	2
36	Kyrgyzstan	2	72	Zambia	1
				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6804</b>