

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.967**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017

**EXCHANGING LISTS OF PRISONERS WITH PAKISTAN**

967. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have exchanged lists of nationals, including civil prisoners and fishermen of each country lodged in their respective jails;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts being made by both the countries to release those prisoners?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) As per India-Pakistan 'Agreement on Consular Access' signed on 21 May 2008, separate lists of civil prisoners and fishermen of each country lodged in the jails of the other are exchanged on 1 January and 1 July of every year.

According to the lists exchanged on 1 January 2017, there were 297 Indian fishermen and 54 Indian civil prisoners in Pakistan's custody and 55 Pakistani fishermen and 287 Pakistani civil prisoners in India's custody.

(c) Government regularly takes up with the Pakistan authorities the issue of early release and repatriation of apprehended Indian fishermen as well as getting regular consular access to them and ensuring their welfare. In addition, the High Commission of India in Islamabad also carries out welfare measures such as distributing items of daily necessity through Pakistani jail authorities.

Due to Government's efforts, 218 Indian fishermen were released by Pakistan on 6 January 2017. Thirty nine Pakistani prisoners, including fishermen, were released and repatriated on 1 March 2017.

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