

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-74**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 20/07/2023

**EXCHANGE OF LIST OF PRISONERS AND FISHERMEN BY INDIA AND  
PAKISTAN**

#74 . SHRI NARHARI AMIN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have exchanged the list of prisoners and fishermen lodged in their respective jails;
- (b) if so, the number of Pakistani prisoners and fishermen lodged in Indian jails;
- (c) the number of Indian prisoners and fishermen lodged in Pakistani jails;
- (d) the efforts being made by Governments of both the countries for the release of the prisoners; and
- (e) the details of the number of fishermen and prisoners of Gujarat lodged in Pakistani jails?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to e) As per the India-Pakistan 'Agreement on Consular Access' signed on 21 May 2008, lists of civilian 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 July 2023, there are 343 civilian prisoners and 74 fishermen in Indian custody who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani. Pakistan has acknowledged the custody of 266 fishermen and 42 civilian prisoners who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian. As per available information, 205 out of 308 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners lodged in Pakistani jails belong to the state of Gujarat.

Government attaches the highest priority to the welfare, safety and security of Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistani custody. As soon as cases of apprehension of Indian civilian prisoners, fishermen and their fishing boats by Pakistan are reported, immediate steps are taken by the Indian Mission in Islamabad towards seeking Consular Access from the Government of Pakistan. During Consular Access, officials from the High Commission of India visit the Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails to ascertain their well-being and distribute daily-use welfare items. All possible assistance, including legal assistance, is extended to the Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen. The matter of early release and repatriation of Indian civilian

prisoners and Indian fishermen, along with their boats, is consistently raised with the Pakistan Government through diplomatic channels.

As a result of sustained efforts by the Government, 2559 Indian fishermen and 63 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014. This includes 398 Indian fishermen and 05 Indian civilian prisoners who have been repatriated from Pakistan this year, so far.

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