

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 396**  
ANSWERED ON- 28/11/2024

**FISHERMEN IMPRISONED IN PAKISTAN FROM GUJARAT**

#396. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL

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

- (a) the total number of fishermen currently imprisoned in Pakistan from the State of Gujarat along with the date of imprisonment;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to resume the stopped postal service which was earlier used by the families of such fishermen to send letters ; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that fishermen from Gujarat are not captured by the Pakistan Marine?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) India and Pakistan exchange lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen of each country, who are lodged in the jails of the other, on 01 January and 01 July every year. As per the last lists exchanged on 01 July 2024, Pakistan acknowledged the custody of 211 Indian/believed-to-be-Indian fishermen. In the said lists, the number of fishermen from Gujarat/believed-to-be from Gujarat was 139. The custody of these 139 fishermen was acknowledged by Pakistan in different lists exchanged in the past 03 years, the earliest being in the lists exchanged on 01 January 2022.
- (b) The Government of Pakistan has imposed ban on several types of services to and from India, including postal services. Department of Posts of India has asked Pakistan Post to preserve normal channels of mail exchange between India and Pakistan.
- (c) Preventive measures are taken by the Indian Coast Guard to guide Indian fishermen not to cross the perceived International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between India and Pakistan. The Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft maintain close surveillance along the perceived IMBL and guide the Indian fishing boats towards Indian waters .

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