

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2402
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2016**

RELEASE OF SOLDIERS

2402. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to devise a mechanism for expeditious release of soldiers strayed inadvertently to the enemy territory;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the number of such exchanges taken place since 2014 between India and Pakistan?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)**

(a) & (b) The current mechanisms for securing release of soldiers who stray inadvertently across the Line of Control (LoC) into Pakistan controlled territory are as following:

- i. On occurrence of an incident, Pakistan Army is contacted on the hotline existing at the Formation/ Military Operations Directorate.**
 - ii. The case is further pursued by the Directorate General of Military Operations (DGMO) through a telephone contact with the Pakistani counterpart on the hotline.**
 - iii. This Ministry also pursues the matter through diplomatic channels.**
- (c) No exchange of Army personnel has taken place between India and Pakistan since 2014 through the above channels.**
