

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2367**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2018

**INDIANS IN VARIOUS FOREIGN JAILS**

2367. PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indians including fishermen languishing in various foreign jails at present, country-wise;
- (b) the number of Indian fishermen granted compensation after their release from foreign jails, particularly from Pakistani jails and the reasons for not giving compensation to some of them;
- (c) the number of Indian soldiers illegally detained in Pakistani jails at present along with the number of representations received from families of such prisoners for their early release and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether any agreement had been signed between India and the UAE regarding completion of rest of the jail term by Indians in Indian prisons and if so, the number of Indians benefited by the said agreement; and
- (e) the effective steps taken for the release of all Indian prisoners at the earliest?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) As per information available with the Ministry, as of 26.07.2018, 7737 Indians, including fishermen, are in various jails of foreign countries. Country-wise details are at Annexure. Due to the strict provisions of privacy laws, some countries do not readily share information about Indian nationals in their jails.

(b) As per information provided by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries had in March 2009 notified a Non-plan scheme of Soft Loan Package for Replacement of Fishing Vessels at a total cost of Rs.1956 lakhs. This scheme envisages replacement of a total of 326 fishing vessels held captive in Pakistan. Under this scheme, capital subsidy to the tune of 30% cost of each vessel subject to a ceiling of Rs.6 lakhs is provided to the each vessel owner for replacement of his/her fishing vessel seized in Pakistan. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Department of Commerce has been designated as the implementing agency.

The MPEDA reports that out of 192 verified applicants, 125 Indian fishermen have been provided financial assistance by utilizing a sum of Rs.750 lakhs released till 2014 for replacement of fishing vessels seized in Pakistan and such another 67 verified applications are reported to be pending for settlement. An additional amount of Rs.110.00 lakhs has also been released to MPEDA, which includes release of Rs.10 lakhs in March 2018 and Rs.100 lakhs in May 2018. This additional amount released is sufficient to cater to the demands of another about 18 beneficiaries. The Department has requested for additional

allocation under supplementary grant for 2018-19 under the scheme to settle the balance 49 claims and the scheme would discontinue thereafter.

(c) As per information available with the Ministry, it is believed that 83 Indian defence personnel are in Pakistan's custody, but their presence has not been acknowledged so far by Pakistan. The Government regularly takes up the issue of early release and repatriation of missing defence personnel with Pakistan authorities through diplomatic channels.

(d) As per information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) was signed in 2011, which came into force in March 2013 and so far no application has been received by them.

(e) As soon as the information about detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by an 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. Legal Panels have been set up in Indian Missions and Posts abroad where Indian community is in sizeable numbers. Under revised Indian Community Welfare Fund guidelines, the scope of legal Assistance has also been broadened and is available in deserving cases.

In those cases where Indian nationals complete their sentences and are waiting for completion of deportation formalities, Indian Missions/Posts in those countries take up with the respective foreign governments for speeding up 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 airfare for facilitating the return of the Indian prisoners who have completed their sentence.

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## ANNEXURE

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>the number of Indians in foreign prisons reported including fishermen</b>
1	Afghanistan	1
2	Armenia	5
3	Australia	68
4	Azerbaijan	7
5	Bahrain	95
6	Bangladesh	24
7	Belarus	1
8	Belgium	19
9	Bhutan	69
10	Brazil	2
11	Brunei	1
12	Cambodia	3
13	Canada	70
14	China	226
15	Colombia	1
16	Cote D' Ivoire	3
17	Cuba	1
18	Cyprus	6
19	Denmark	5
20	Egypt	1
21	Ethiopia	2
22	Fiji	1
23	Finland	1
24	France	41
25	Germany	51
26	Greece	27
27	Guatemala	3
28	Indonesia	19
29	Iran	6
30	Iraq	2
31	Israel	4
32	Italy	225
33	Japan	7
34	Jordan	23
35	Kenya	3
36	Korea (Republic of)	2
37	Kuwait	484
38	Kyrgyzstan	1
39	Lao PDR	2
40	Lebanon	1
41	Malaysia	298
42	Mauritius	5
43	Mexico	2
44	Mozambique	5
45	Myanmar	45
46	Nepal	548
47	New Zealand	13
48	Oman	71

49	Pakistan	471
50	Panama	1
51	Philippines	19
52	Poland, Lithuania	1
53	Portugal	9
54	Qatar	166
55	Romania	2
56	Russian Federation	3
57	Saudi Arabia	1575
58	Senegal	2
59	Singapore	132
60	Slovak Republic	1
61	South Africa	3
62	Spain	34
63	Sri Lanka	43
64	Sudan	3
65	Switzerland	1
66	Syria	4
67	Tanzania	1
68	Thailand	44
69	Turkey	2
70	Uganda	1
71	United Arab Emirates	1690
72	United Kingdom	378
73	Ukraine	1
74	U.S.A	647
75	Uzbekistan	1
76	Vietnam	1
77	Zimbabwe	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7737</b>

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