

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2310
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.12.2018

INDIAN PRISONERS LODGED ABROAD

2310. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:
DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of efforts made by Indian Missions to get complete information regarding offence, sentence, domicile and gender of Indian prisoners in foreign countries where privacy laws do not exist; and
- (b) the details of special efforts made by Indian Missions to get more complete information on offence, sentence, domicile and gender of Indian prisoners in foreign countries where privacy laws do exist?

ANSWER

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

(a) Immediately upon intimation by authorities in foreign countries regarding arrest of Indian nationals, our Missions and Posts try to get complete information about them, if available with the concerned local authorities, through written communication, like their names, passport number, complete information on their offence, sentence, domicile in India etc. Further, in case any complaint of arrest of an Indian national is received by the Mission, it gets in touch with the local Foreign Office and other concerned local authorities to get further information, confirm his/her Indian citizenship and ensures his/her welfare. Missions and Posts also seek consular access to such Indian nationals and once granted, Mission officials visit them in the prisons to render assistance and ensure their welfare.

(b) Due to strict privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not reveal presence of Indian nationals in local detention centres/jails unless there is express consent by the prisoner. In cases where prisoner's details are shared, the Missions request for providing consular access to the prisoner, which is normally granted. In addition, Missions/Posts also conduct regular visits to the prisons to meet the Indian nationals in jail, to enquire about their welfare and well-being. During such visits, Missions/Posts also try to obtain information about the other Indian nationals lodged there.
