

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1756
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019

INDIANS LODGED IN JAILS OF GULF COUNTRIES

1756. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Indians are lodged in jail in the Gulf Countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country and State-wise;
- (c) the details of action being taken by the Government to get them released and deported to India;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Indian Embassy concerned has charged any fee for extending facilities to such persons; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to give services and facilities to such persons, who are mostly poor, free of cost?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As per information available with the Ministry, 4705 Indian nationals are in prisons in Gulf countries, as shown in Annexure.

(c) to (e) Our Missions and Posts abroad extend all possible help and assistance to the imprisoned Indian nationals including when they are detained by local police/immigration authorities or put in prisons for violation of local laws. Apart from extending them all possible consular services, Indian Missions and Posts abroad also assist in extending legal aid wherever needed. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizeable numbers. Legal assistance is also provided to Indian nationals abroad including those in prison on a means tested basis through the Indian Community Welfare Fund. No fee is charged by our Missions and Posts abroad in such cases.

ANNEXURE

S. No.	Name of Country	Number of Indians in Prisons
1	Bahrain	121
2	Kuwait	483
3	Oman	59
4	Qatar	212
5	Saudi Arabia	2224
6	United Arab Emirates	1606
Total		4705
