

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.528
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2019

INDIANS IMPRISONED IN GULF COUNTRIES

†528. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Indian origin labourers are imprisoned in gulf countries in cases of accidents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan to get the long term prisoners in Gulf countries released through Government funded counsellors for acquaintance of their cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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, which also includes Indian origin labourers imprisoned due to accidents, as shown in Annexure.

(c) & (d) 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 necessary 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 available to Indian nationals abroad including those in prison on a means tested basis through the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

ANNEXURE

Name of the country	Number of Indians imprisoned in Gulf countries
UAE	1606
Bahrain	121
Kuwait	483
Muscat	59
Qatar	212
Saudi Arabia	2224
Total	4705
