

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-249**  
ANSWERED ON- 03/02/2023

**INDIAN CONVICTS IN FOREIGN JAILS**

249. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH  
SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN  
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR  
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK  
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA)  
SHRI BHOLA SINGH

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :-

- (a) the details of Indian convicts and under trials including civilians, workers and women languishing in jails in foreign countries as on date, country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has signed any MoU or mutual understanding with any foreign country for the mutual exchange of the prisoners and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide legal help and support to prisoners and strengthen legal system in our High Commissions and Embassies abroad, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to sign extradition treaties with those foreign countries with which India has not signed the extradition treaty so far;
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the release of Indian prisoners in foreign jails alongwith the outcome thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has received any reports indicating that Indian prisoners and under trials are being abused or subjected to torture, if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

- (a) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including under-trials, in foreign prisons at present is 8343. Country-wise list is given at Annexure I. However, due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such

information. Even countries which share information do not generally provide detailed information about the foreigners imprisoned.

(b to f) India has signed Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons (TSP) with 31 countries. List of these 31 countries is placed at Annexure II. India has also acceded/ratified the multilateral Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad and the Council of Europe Convention on Transfer of Sentenced Persons. India has signed extradition treaties with 50 countries and has extradition arrangements with 12 countries.

Apart from extending all possible consular assistance to Indians imprisoned abroad, Indian Missions and Posts also assist in providing legal aid wherever needed. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizeable numbers. No fee is charged from any Indian prisoner for extending facilities by the Indian Embassy concerned. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is set up in Indian Missions & Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations on a means tested basis in deserving cases. The support extended under ICWF includes financial assistance to Indian prisoners for legal aid as well as travel documents / air tickets during repatriation.

The Government attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indians in foreign countries, including those in the foreign jails. Indian Missions/Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor the incidents of Indian nationals being put in jail in foreign countries for violation/ alleged violation of local laws.

As soon as the information about the detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by an Indian Mission/Post, it immediately gets in touch with the local Foreign Office and other concerned local authorities to get consular access to the detained/arrested Indian national to ascertain the facts of the case, confirm his or her Indian nationality and ensure his or her welfare.

The issue of repatriation of Indian nationals in foreign prisons is regularly pursued by Indian Missions and Posts abroad with the local authorities concerned. The Government also follows up this issue during consular and other consultations with other countries. In addition, the Government, through its Missions/Posts abroad and during high level visits, also takes up and pursues grant of amnesty/commutation of sentences of Indian prisoners in foreign countries.

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**ANNEXURE I**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Indians in foreign jails</b>
<b>1</b>	Argentina	1
<b>2</b>	Armenia	9
<b>3</b>	Australia	81
<b>4</b>	Austria	8
<b>5</b>	Azerbaijan	4
<b>6</b>	Bahrain	265
<b>7</b>	Bangladesh	60
<b>8</b>	Belarus	2
<b>9</b>	Belgium	7
<b>10</b>	Bhutan	68
<b>11</b>	Brunei Darussalam	3
<b>12</b>	Bulgaria	3
<b>13</b>	Burkina Faso	1
<b>14</b>	Cambodia	1
<b>15</b>	Canada	23
<b>16</b>	Chile	1
<b>17</b>	China	170
<b>18</b>	Congo (Kinshasa)	8
<b>19</b>	Congo (Brazzaville)	1
<b>20</b>	Côte d'Ivoire	8
<b>21</b>	Cuba	1
<b>22</b>	Cyprus	51
<b>23</b>	Denmark	3
<b>24</b>	Egypt	1
<b>25</b>	Fiji	1
<b>26</b>	France	29

27	Germany	66
28	Ghana	1
29	Greece	22
30	Hungary	6
31	Indonesia	21
32	Iran	16
33	Israel	9
34	Italy	156
35	Japan	5
36	Jordan	30
37	Kenya	3
38	Kuwait	428
39	Kyrgyzstan	1
40	Laos	2
41	Lebanon	5
42	Madagascar	3
43	Malawi	1
44	Malaysia	606
45	Maldives	11
46	Mauritius	10
47	Mexico	1
48	Morocco	1
49	Mozambique	6
50	Myanmar	21
51	Nepal	1222
52	Nigeria	18
53	Oman	92
54	Pakistan	51
55	Philippines	35

56	Portugal	10
57	Qatar	682
58	Republic of Korea	2
59	Romania	8
60	Russia	13
61	Rwanda	4
62	Saudi Arabia	1362
63	Senegal	4
64	Serbia	4
65	Singapore	71
66	Slovakia	1
67	South Africa	6
68	South Sudan	1
69	Spain	40
70	Sri Lanka	22
71	Sweden	2
72	Tanzania	3
73	Thailand	21
74	Togo	2
75	Uganda	2
76	United Arab Emirates	1926
77	United Kingdom	226
78	USA	264
79	Uzbekistan	1
80	Vietnam	3
81	Yemen	1
82	Zimbabwe	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8343</b>

**Countries with which India has signed Agreements  
on Transfer of Sentenced Persons (TSP)**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
1	Australia
2	Bahrain
3	Bangladesh
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina
5	Brazil
6	Bulgaria
7	Cambodia
8	Egypt
9	Estonia
10	France
11	Hong Kong
12	Iran
13	Israel
14	Italy
15	Kazakhstan
16	Korea
17	Kuwait
18	Maldives
19	Mauritius
20	Mongolia
21	Qatar
22	Russia
23	Saudi Arabia
24	Somalia
25	Spain

<b>26</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>27</b>	Thailand
<b>28</b>	Turkey
<b>29</b>	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
<b>30</b>	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island
<b>31</b>	Vietnam

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