

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4647

ANSWERED ON- 28/03/2025

UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS IN FOREIGN JAILS

4647. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV

SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of undertrial prisoners including convicted Indian nationals, workers and women languishing in foreign jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years till date, country-wise;

(c) the names of the States to which these prisoners belong;

(d) whether the Government has signed any MoU with any other country for mutual exchange of prisoners during the last five years;

and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including under-trials, in foreign prisons at present is 10,152. Country-wise list is placed at Annexure A.

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 foreign nationals imprisoned. The number of Indians in foreign jails is a dynamic figure as there are a number of arrests and releases every week.

(d) & (e) While the Government has not signed MoU for mutual exchange of prisoners during the last five years, it has altogether 31 bilateral Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons by virtue of which Indian prisoners lodged in foreign countries can be transferred to India to serve the remainder of their sentence and vice-versa. These are with Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Egypt, Estonia, France, Iran, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkiye, United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom and Vietnam.

India has also signed two multilateral conventions on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, namely Inter-American Convention on Serving Criminal Sentences Abroad and Council of Europe Convention on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, by virtue of which sentenced persons of member States and other countries which have acceded to these conventions can seek transfer to their native countries to serve the remainder of their sentence.

Annexure A

Sr. No.	Country	Total number of Indians under trail and convicted in Foreign Jails at present
1	Afghanistan	8
2	Angola	2
3	Argentina	1
4	Armenia	39
5	Australia	27
6	Azerbaijan	10
7	Bahrain	181
8	Bangladesh	4
9	Belarus	9
10	Belgium	1
11	Bhutan	69
12	Brunei Darussalam	6
13	Cambodia	22
14	Canada	23
15	Chile	1
16	China	173
17	Congo	5
18	Cote d' Ivoire	14
19	Croatia	3
20	Cuba	2
21	Cyprus	21
22	Denmark	1
23	Egypt	1
24	Ethiopia	4
25	France	45
26	Georgia	45
27	Germany	25
28	Guatemala	2
29	Guinea	2
30	Indonesia	21

31	Iran	18
32	Iraq	1
33	Ireland	5
34	Israel	4
35	Italy	168
36	Jamaica	1
37	Japan	6
38	Jordan	28
39	Kazakhstan	3
40	Kenya	4
41	Kuwait	387
42	Kyrgyzstan	4
43	Laos	6
44	Lebanon	2
45	Lithuania	1
46	Madagascar	1
47	Malawi	1
48	Malaysia	338
49	Maldives	10
50	Mali	1
51	Malta	5
52	Mauritius	10
53	Mexico	1
54	Morocco	2
55	Mozambique	5
56	Myanmar	27
57	Nepal	1317
58	Nigeria	3
59	North Macedonia	5
60	Oman	148
61	Pakistan	266
62	Philippines	44
63	Poland	7
64	Qatar	611
65	Republic of Korea	4
66	Russia	27
67	Rwanda	3

68	Saudi Arabia	2633
69	Senegal	5
70	Serbia	4
71	Singapore	92
72	South Africa	8
73	Spain	34
74	Sri Lanka	98
75	Switzerland	1
76	Tajikistan	1
77	Thailand	37
78	Trinidad and Tobago	1
79	Turkiye	3
80	UAE	2518
81	Uganda	11
82	United Kingdom	288
83	USA	169
84	Uzbekistan	3
85	Vietnam	4
86	Zimbabwe	1
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