

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA**

**Unstarred QUESTION NO- 877**

**ANSWERED ON- 07/02/2025**

**INDIANS IN QATAR JAILS**

**877 SHRI E T MOHAMMED BASHEER**

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

**(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a large number of Indians especially people from Kerala are boarded in jails in Qatar after the FIFA Worldcup;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government ensure their to release and return back to India; and**

**(c) the details of Indians who are behind bars in different countries as on date?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)**

**(a) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including undertrials, in Qatari jails is 611. However, due to strong privacy laws, Government of Qatar does not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Therefore, State-wise data of Indian Prisoners is not available. Moreover, Government has not noticed any abnormal increase in number of Indian prisoners in Qatari jails after the World Cup.**

**(b) The Government attaches high 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. Missions/Posts remain vigilant to ensure that rights of the Indian prisoners in foreign jails are protected.**

**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 issue of release and repatriation of Indian nationals in foreign prisons is regularly pursued by Indian Missions and Posts abroad with**

**the local authorities concerned. Missions/Posts abroad also approach the law enforcement agencies to complete the investigation and judicial proceedings at the earliest possible. 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. India has also entered into prisoner transfer treaties with many nations that allow a person convicted of a crime to be transferred to his or her home country to serve the prison sentence.**

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

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**Annexure**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Total number of Indians under trail and convicted in Foreign Jails at present</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Angola</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Argentina</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Armenia</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Bahrain</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Belarus</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Bhutan</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Chile</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Congo</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Cote d' Ivoire</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Croatia</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Cuba</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Guinea</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Iran</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Iraq</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>33</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Israel</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>387</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Laos</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Madagascar</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>47</b>	<b>Malawi</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>338</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>Maldives</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Mali</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>51</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>55</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>56</b>	<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>57</b>	<b>Nepal</b>	<b>1317</b>
<b>58</b>	<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>North Macedonia</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>60</b>	<b>Oman</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>62</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>63</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>64</b>	<b>Qatar</b>	<b>611</b>
<b>65</b>	<b>Republic of Korea</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>66</b>	<b>Russia</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>67</b>	<b>Rwanda</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>2633</b>

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