

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4730

ANSWERED ON – 20/03/2026

DETENTION OF INDIAN SEAFARERS BY FOREIGN AUTHORITIES

4730. MS SAYANI GHOSH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian seafarers arrested or detained by foreign countries since 2014, country-wise and year-wise;**
- (b) the current status of such cases, indicating the number of seafarers released, repatriated or remain in detention, country-wise;**
- (c) the nature of charges or reasons for detention in such cases, category-wise;**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government, including through Indian Missions abroad, for legal assistance, consular access, medical support and welfare of detained seafarers;**

(e) whether any special financial, legal or diplomatic assistance has been provided to affected seafarers and their families, if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has taken up such cases bilaterally or through international maritime bodies to secure early release, if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen protection mechanisms, legal awareness and emergency support for Indian seafarers working overseas?

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 details of Indian seafarers arrested or detained by foreign countries is placed at Annexure A, Indian seafarers released or repatriated is placed at Annexure B and Indian seafarers who are currently in detention in foreign countries is placed at Annexure C.

The reasons for detention of Indian seafarers include illegal entry into foreign waters, possession of ammunition, liquor smuggling, diesel smuggling, drug trafficking, money laundering etc.

(d) to (g) The Government attaches high priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian seafarers. As soon as information about the detention of Indian seafarers is received, our Missions/Posts in respective countries coordinate with local authorities to ascertain the well-being of Indian seafarers and provide requisite help and support, including consular assistance and medical support. Financial assistance, if necessary, is provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). Apart from extending all possible consular assistance, our Missions/Posts also assist in providing legal aid wherever needed. On the release of the seafarers, Indian Missions/Posts abroad provide them with necessary travel documents to facilitate their repatriation to India.

The Government has been taking up the issues of arrest of Indian seafarers by foreign countries with respective governments through diplomatic channels, various official interactions and established bilateral mechanisms. The matter of early release and repatriation of

Indian seafarers is consistently raised with respective countries at all levels and it is conveyed that the issue may be considered purely on humanitarian and livelihood grounds with an aim to expedite the resolution of the cases.

Annexure A

Sr. No.	Country Name	The number of Indian seafarers arrested or detained since 2014, year-wise												The total number of Indian Seafarers arrested or detained from 2014 to 2025
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
1	Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2	Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	16
3	China	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	8
4	Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
5	Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	12	22
6	Egypt	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
7	Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	16
8	Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
10	Greece	10	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	27
11	Iran	0	0	0	0	0	16	21	7	17	81	70	57	269
12	Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
13	Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8

14	Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
15	Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
16	Malaysia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34
17	Maldives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
18	Mauritius	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
19	Nigeria	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	27
20	Portugal	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
21	Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
22	Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24	25
23	Senegal	5	0	13	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	22
24	South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	10	2	0	0	23
25	Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
26	Trinidad & Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
27	Turkiye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	5
28	Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
29	United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

30	Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
31	Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6

Annexure B

Sr. No.	Country Name	The total number of Indian seafarers released or repatriated since 2014, year-wise												The total number of Indian seafarers who have been released or repatriated from 2014 to 2025
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
1	Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2	Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	16
3	China	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	7
4	Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
5	Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
6	Egypt	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
7	Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	16
8	Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	21
9	Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
10	Greece	10	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	27
11	Iran	0	0	0	0	0	9	5	18	14	57	95	30	228
12	Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

13	Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
14	Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
15	Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
16	Malaysia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34
17	Maldives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
18	Nigeria	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	27
19	Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
20	Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
21	Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25
22	Senegal	0	5	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
23	South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	10	2	0	23
24	Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	3	5	0	0	24
25	Trinidad & Tobago	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	1	0	16
26	Turkiye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
27	Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
28	Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6

Annexure C

Sr. No.	Country Name	The total number of Indian seafarers who are currently in detention
1	Australia	1
2	China	2
3	Cote d'Ivoire	1
4	Djibouti	17
5	Egypt	1
6	Iran	18
7	Italy	2
8	Mauritius	2
9	Nigeria	22
10	Senegal	4
11	Trinidad & Tobago	1
12	United Kingdom	2
