

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.648
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.04.2016**

INDIANS JAILED ABROAD

**648. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians currently incarcerated abroad, country-wise and the details of those who completed their prison terms and are due to be freed;**
- (b) whether delays in their release has been noted and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether India is ensuring that the basic rights of Indian prisoners abroad are being taken care of and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government is in contact with foreign governments to find out the exact number of Indian prisoners in foreign jails so as to protect the rights of Indian prisoners and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

(a) Due to the strict provisions of privacy laws, many countries in Europe, United States of America, Canada & Australia do not share information about Indian nationals who are in their prisons. However, as per the information available, 7213 Indian nationals are lodged in foreign jails. A list showing the number of Indians lodged in foreign prisons as on date is annexed.

(b) to (d) As per data available, there are 479 Indian nationals who have completed their sentences and are waiting for completion of deportation formalities. Indian Missions and Posts in those countries have taken up with the respective foreign governments the speeding up of the process, including issue of final Exit Visas, waiver of penalties imposed on Indian workers, etc. from the concerned authorities and for the early return of the Indian nationals to India. Where required, the Indian Missions and

Posts abroad also provide air tickets for facilitating the return of the Indian prisoners who have completed their sentences to India.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad always strive to respond promptly to the requests/appeals by Indian citizens in distress. As soon as the information about detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by the Indian Mission/Post, it gets in touch with the local Foreign Office and other concerned local authorities to get consular access to the detained/arrested Indian national to confirm his or her Indian nationality and ensure their welfare. In some countries where pro bono lawyers are available, the Mission arranges such legal assistance to the Indian prisoners. Government of India also provides initial legal assistance to distressed Indian nationals in deserving cases.

Steps taken by our Missions include requesting local authorities for speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails, issue of emergency certificates and repatriation to India of those who are released. In some countries, our Mission also requests the local government for grant of amnesty to the arrested Indians and if any mercy petition for remission of sentences is received from the family members of the Indian prisoners, the Mission forwards them to the local authorities for consideration. India has signed Treaties for Transfer of Sentenced Persons with 35 countries, under which Indian prisoners have been brought back to India from some of these countries.

Annexure

Indians Jailed Abroad			
Sl. No.	Name of Country	No. of prisoners	No. of Indian prisoners who have completed their sentence and are due to be freed
1	Angola	2	
2	Armenia	2	
3	Australia	63	
4	Austria	5	
5	Azerbaijan	1	
6	Bahrain	97	29
7	Bangladesh	122	57
8	Belgium	24	
9	Bhutan	61	
10	Brunei Darussalam	2	
11	Canada	21	
12	China	107	
13	Colombia	5	
14	Cuba	2	
15	Cyprus	2	
16	Denmark	8	
17	Egypt	5	
18	Ethiopia	2	
19	Fiji	1	
20	France	48	
21	Germany	6	
22	Ghana	6	
23	Guatemala	3	
24	Indonesia	21	
25	Iran	26	
26	Ireland	1	
27	Israel	11	
28	Italy	137	
29	Japan	7	
30	Jordan	9	
31	Kenya	3	
32	Korea	3	
33	Kuwait	383	
34	Kyrgyzstan	2	
35	Libya	1	
36	Lebanon	8	
37	Madagascar	3	
38	Malaysia	356	201
39	Maldives	26	
40	Mauritius	9	
41	Mexico	2	

42	Myanmar	172	
43	Nepal	859	
44	New Zealand	13	
45	Niger	1	
46	Nigeria	13	
47	Oman	187	
48	Pakistan	230	173
49	Panama	3	1
50	Philippines	5	
51	Portugal	4	
52	Qatar	87	
53	Republic of Korea	2	
54	Russian Federation	4	
55	Saudi Arabia	1697	14
56	Senegal	1	
57	Seychelles	2	
58	Singapore	115	
59	Slovak Republic	2	
60	South Africa	9	
61	Spain	21	
62	Sri Lanka	32	
63	Tanzania	1	
64	Thailand	83	
65	United Arab Emirates	1143	4
66	United Kingdom	360	
67	USA	560	
68	Uzbekistan	1	
69	Yemen	2	
70	Zambia	1	
	Grand Total	7213	479
