

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:508

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003

INDIANS LANGUISHING IN PAK JAILS

ADHI SANKAR;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;RADHA MOHAN SINGH;SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUBODH ROY;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Pak prisoners likely to be freed in response to 20 Indian nationals freed by Pakistan;
- (b) the details of the number of Indians in Pak jails till date and the charges levelled against them;
- (c) the number of prisoners from both sides released in the last six months;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to get the remaining prisoners released; and
- (e) the time by when they are likely to be released?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

- (a) Government announced on May 26, 2003 the release of 60 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 70 fishermen as soon as Pakistan indicates its readiness to accept them and the established procedures are completed by the Government of Pakistan. Following this 6 Pakistani civilian prisoners were released on 25.6.2003.
- (b) As per available information, 863 Indian civil prisoners, 319 fishermen and 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan on charges of violation of Pakistani laws including crossing into Pakistan illegally.
- (c) Pakistan has released 300 Indian detainees including 280 fishermen and India has released 6 Pakistani civilian prisoners during the last six months.
- (d & e) Government has consistently taken up the case of early release of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. Prisoners are released after completion of their jail sentences, grant of consular access and verification of their national status.