

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:971
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
INDIAN FISHERMEN IN PAKISTANI JAILS
Patel Shri Dahya Bhai V.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Indian fishermen particularly from Gujarat and Union Territory of Daman and Diu are languishing in Pakistan jails at present;
- (b) if so, the details of representations received by the Government during the last 3 years from respective members of Parliament and fishermen associations in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to secure the release of all such fishermen ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a) As per available information, presently 407 Indian fishermen, including from the State of Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu, are under detention in Pakistan.
- (b) & (c) From time to time, Government have been receiving a number of representations from the Honourable Members of Parliament and the fishermen associations, seeking early release of the Indian fishermen under Pakistan's custody. Government have been consistently taking up the matter of early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. As a result, Pakistan released 623 Indian fishermen during the year 2003. Consular access to 268 Indian fishermen was obtained in March 2004. Their nationality has been verified, and consular access sought for the remaining fishermen. The matter was once again taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks in New Delhi on 27-28 June 2004, and immediate release of all apprehended fishermen was agreed.