

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
INDIAN YOUTHS IN PAKISTANI JAILS
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many Indian youths are still languishing in Pakistani jails ;
- (b) if so, the number and details thereof ;
- (c) whether the Government has recently received requests from various quarters to ensure their early release ;
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction ; and
- (e) the time by which these youths are likely to be released? ;

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 52 (Priority XII) for answer on 7.7.2004, regarding `Indian Youths in Pakistani jails`

(a)&(b)According to available information, there are a large number of Indian civilian prisoners in Pakistan,including some youth who reportedly entered Pakistan illegally.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e)Government of India have been consistently taking up the matter of the early release and repatriation of Indian civilian prisoners with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. The issue was once again taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan on June 27 -28, 2004 in New Delhi and included in the Joint Statement.