

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:66

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

SEPARATE CELLS FOR HANDLING GRIEVANCES OF POWS ABROAD

Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations regarding setting up of separate cells to handle the grievances/issues relating to Prisoners of Wars held in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a), (b)& (c) Government has been receiving proposals from time to time from individuals and associations on the issue of POWs in Pakistan Government. Government is seized of the matter. It has persistently taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels and during high-level contacts for their release. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any POW in its custody. Government does not see any need for setting up a separate cell for handling issues relating to POWs.