

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:109

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

RELEASE OF PRISONERS FROM INDIAN AND PAKISTANI JAILS

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Khanna Shri Avinash Rai;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners currently being held captive in the respective countries, category-wise;
- (b) The number of fishermen, civilian and PoWs released by India and Pakistan during the last three years till date, category-wise and year-wise;
- (c) Whether a large number of representations have been received for release of Indian PoWs from Pak jails;
- (d) If so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction;
- (e) Whether the Government proposes to provide any facilities to the families of PoWs?
- (f) If so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for early release of the captives from Pak jails?

**Answer**

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

(a) Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails : 420 (fishermen: 210; civilian prisoners: 156; PoWs: 54)

Pakistani prisoners in Indian jails : (fishermen: 30; civilian prisoners: being ascertained from the authorities concerned; PoWs: 0)

(b) Pakistani prisoners released by India In 2003, India released 113 Pakistani prisoners including 93 fishermen and 20 civilian prisoners. India released 58 civilian prisoners in 2004. In 2005, India released 359 Pakistani prisoners including 208 fishermen and 151 civilian prisoners. There are no Pakistani Prisoners of War in Indian jails.

Indian prisoners released by Pakistan In 2003, Pakistan released 661 Indian prisoners including 623 fishermen and 38 civilian prisoners. Pakistan released 37 civilian prisoners in 2004. In 2005, Pakistan released 1,296 Indian prisoners including 1171 fishermen and 125 civilian prisoners. Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any Indian Prisoners of War in its jails.

(c) to (f) Ministry has been receiving representations for the release of Indian PoWs. Although the Government has consistently taken up this issue with the Government of Pakistan at all levels, the latter has never acknowledged the presence of any Indian POWs in its jails. In pursuance to the efforts of locating Indian POWs, Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the matter with Pakistan Government for sending a delegation of the families of the missing defence personnel on a visit to various jails in Pakistan to facilitate identification of Indian Prisoners of War. A similar delegation had visited Pakistan in 1983 but it was given limited access and could not locate any Indian POW.

(g) The Government has been persistently taking up the matter of release of Indian prisoners through diplomatic channels and during high level contacts from time to time.