

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
INDIANS LODGED IN FOREIGN JAILS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indians are lodged in various foreign jails;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise alongwith the dates from which they have been held prisoners;
- (c) Whether it has come to the notice of the Government that many Indians have been detained in Saudi jails in connection with road accidents;
- (d) if so, whether they are unable to pay Diya (blood money);
- (e) if so, the details of these detainees; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to get all the Indian prisoners released from the various jails at the earliest?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir,
- (b) The details as per latest information available with the Government are indicated in Annexure-A.
- (c),(d)& (e) Information is being collected and will be furnished later on.
- (f) Indian Missions and Posts abroad make all possible efforts to get Indian Nationals in foreign jails released quickly and provide assistance which includes requesting speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, interacting with prisoners' relatives in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails, and facilitating repatriation to India on release. In countries with large concentration of Indian workers (e.g. in the Gulf), our Missions and Posts have separate wings exclusively looking after the work of welfare of Indian nationals. Officials of these wings regularly visit local prisons to find out if there are any detained Indian nationals and to render permissible assistance.