

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4176

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004

RELEASE OF PRISONERS FROM PAK JAILS

Bhakta Shri Manoranjan;Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan;Manvendra Singh Shri ;Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

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

- (a) whether some Indian soldiers are imprisoned in Pakistani jails illegally even today;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which they have been imprisoned;
- (c) the details of requests received from the families of such Indian soldiers for their release from the jails including the dates on which these were received ;
- (d) the total number of prisoners released by India and Pakistan during the last two years and the number of prisoners in Indian and Pak jails at present ;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to get the civilians and soldiers released from the Pakistani jails or whether it has drawn or proposes to draw the attention of the International Organisations in this regard ;
- (f) if so, the details thereof ;
- (g) the number of Pak prisoners facing trials in various courts in India ;
- (h) whether any special courts have been set up for the purpose ; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c) As per available information, 54 Indian Prisoners of War are presently believed to be in Pakistan`s custody since 1971-72. Requests from different quarters, including members of the families of the Indian soldiers, have been received from time to time for taking up the matter of early release of Indian soldiers with the Government of Pakistan. Government, through diplomatic channels, have been consistently taking up the matter with Pakistan. However, Pakistan has never acknowledged the presence of these Indian POWs in their custody.

(d) As per available information, since 1 August 2002, India has released 35 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 93 fishermen. During the same period, Pakistan has released 38 Indian civilian prisoners, 2 missing Indian defence personnel, and 623 Indian fishermen.

As per available information, 938 Indian civilian prisoners, 412 fishermen and 54 POWs are presently believed to be in Pakistan`s custody.

(e) & (f) The Simla Agreement has committed both India and Pakistan to address all issues bilaterally.

Government, through diplomatic channels, have been consistently taking up the issue of early release and repatriation of the Indian prisoners under Pakistan`s custody. The matter was also taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks on June 27-28, 2004 in New Delhi, and again during the Secretary (Culture) level talks on Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in Various Fields, held in New Delhi on August 3-4, 2004.

(g) to (i) As per available information, about 100 Pakistani nationals are facing trial in various courts in India. They can be released after completion of due procedure.