

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1849
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
RELEASING OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has released 54 Pakistani prisoners and fishermen alongwith 3 children as part of humanitarian gesture as reported in "The Times of India" dated December 23, 2006;
- (b) if so, the date on which they were released;
- (c) the total number of Pakistani prisoners are languishing in the Indian jails and since when, State-wise;
- (d) whether Pakistan has also released Indian prisoners including 412 fishermen as agreed earlier but released only 70 prisoners including 50 fishermen; and
- (e) if so, the reasons and the time by which remaining prisoners and fishermen are likely to be released ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a)to(e) : Yes, Sir. 24 Pakistani civil prisoners and 30 fishermen alongwith three children were repatriated to Pakistan on 22.12.2006. At present, as per available reports, there are 199 Pakistani civil prisoners lodged in different jails of India. On 23.12.2006 Pakistani repatriated 50 Indian fishermen & 20 civil prisoners. On 10.01.2007, Pakistan released another 115 Indian fishermen. Government has been consistently taking up the issue of early release and repatriation of Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen with Pakistani through diplomatic channels.