

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1308
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR
Tirath Smt. Krishna

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that number of army personnel taken prisoners of war and lodged in Pakistani jails following the Kargil war, were declared deserters;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases which have come to light;
- (c) the steps have since been taken to secure their custody from Pak authorities and to compensate and rehabilitate them and their families;
- (d) whether in some cases irreparable damage, culminating in death of mother and desertion and remarriage of wife was caused to the POWs; and
- (e) if so, the facts thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1308 FOR 15.7.2004

Two individuals (No. 1582754A Lance Naik Jagsir Singh and No. 1588445L Sapper Mohammed Arif) both of 108 Engineer Regiment (Sub-Unit 23 Field Company), deployed in Mushkoh Sector since September 1999, went missing on 17th September, 1999 and were declared `Absent Without Leave` from the same date. On completion of 30 days of absence, the above individuals were declared deserters, as per existing Army Rules.

Consequent to the receipt of confirmation of the presence of the individuals in the custody of Pakistan Law Enforcement Agency, their names have been taken off the deserters list. The monetary benefits that have accrued and paid to them are as under:

(a) Lance Naik Jagsir Singh:

(i) Engineer-in-Chief's Branch - Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. 25,000/- each to mother and wife as a grant)
- paid on 10th May, 2004.

(ii) Pay and Accounts Office - Rs. 77,340/- (Rs. 38,670/- as family allotment each to mother and wife from September, 1999 to 31st May, 2004)
- paid on 13th June, 2004.

(iii) Total amount disbursed - Rs. 1,27,340/-.

(b) Sapper Mohammed Arif: Nil (due to the demise of his parents and remarriage of his wife).

However, Rs. 2,28,000/- and Rs. 2,55,000/- have since been credited to the accounts of Lance Naik Jagsir Singh and Sapper Mohammed Arif respectively as pay and allowances.

Shri Gurdev Singh, father of Lance Naik Jagsir Singh died and Smt. Hazra Begam, mother of Sapper Mohammad Arif expired during 2002.

Further on investigation it was also learnt that Mrs. Noorchasmi Khatun alias Gudia, wife of Sapper Mohammad Arif got remarried to Shri Toufique in April, 2003. The information regarding these personnel being in the custody of Law Enforcement Agency in Pakistan was received in December, 2003.

Consequently, the families were informed regarding their whereabouts and well being.