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Title: Regarding plight of Indian soldiers languishing in Pakistani jails.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (LUDHIANA): Earlier this month, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Liberation of Bangladesh. It was perhaps the finest hour for the Indian Armed Forces and this nation. But, Madam Speaker, that hour is tinged with an element of poignancy. There are still 54 Prisoners of War who are believed to be languishing in Pakistani jails. Repeatedly, evidence has emerged. Letters are there; eye witness accounts are there; citations are there about those people languishing in those jails. What I would like to request the Government, Madam Speaker, through you, is that a multi-disciplinary investigation and search agency must be immediately constituted, they should scientifically sift through the entire evidence which is available in the public domain. They should come to a certain conclusion; take it up with the Pakistani Government so that we can bring the closure to the matter because we can imagine the plight of those families who for 40 years do not know as to whether their loved ones are alive or dead. I think, collectively, we owe it to them; this nation owes it to them to try and bring those boys home, who in 1971, risked their lives for this nation.

I would like to request the Government, through you, Madam Speaker, that this matter should be given the highest importance and should be taken up on priority.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Mahesh Joshi, Shri Harish Choudhary, Shri Ljyaraj Singh, Shri P.L. Punia, Shri Kamal Kishor 'Commando' and Shri Dushyant Singh are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Manish Tewari.