

>

Title : Regarding the death sentence pronounced on Shri Sarabjit Singh by the Pakistan court.

***Dr. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (KHADOOR SAHIB)** : Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the notice of the government through you, the painful story of a young man of Punjab, Sarabjit Singh, who was arrested from Pakistan Border on 28th August, 1990. The Lahore Special Court pronounced capital punishment for him in 1991. An appeal was filed in the High Court against that verdict. This appeal was rejected in the court. We then moved the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court rejected our appeal on the ground that we were late. We, then, took special permission and moved the Supreme Court again. But our lawyer did not appear on that day. I would like to know from the government through you, whether the Government of India is making some arrangement for the release of this young man who has been languishing in jail on other countries. We have requested the Hon. Prime Minister and also brought it to the notice of the Pakistani Authority including the Supreme Court. Now the final appeal for mercy is pending with the Pakistani President Mr. Zardari. It is my request, through you, to the Hon. Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister to extend all possible help to us to rescue Sarbjit. This innocent young man should be saved from being sent to the gallows. This is not an isolated case. There are several other black-listed young men in other countries. There is no extremism. This is injustice to the Punjabis. I request the Hon. Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister of India to look into this.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi