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Title: Regarding release of Jawan Shri Anand Patri from Lahor Central Jail as prioner of War.

SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL (BHADRAK): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the House to a very sensitive issue relating to my parliamentary constituency.

Shri Anand Patri of Village Kalyani, Police Station Dhamnagar, District Bhadrak of Odisha was recruited in the Indian Army in the year 1955-56. Shri Patri participated in the Indo-China War in 1962 and in the Indo-Pak War in 1965. However, Shri Patri became a Prisoner of War in 1965 war and is languishing in Kot-Lakphat Central Jail, Lahore, Pakistan.

Sir, the Government of Pakistan was ready to release him in the past as a civilian prisoner whereas he is acceptable only as a Prisoner of War as per International Conventions. Further, as per Geneva Convention, a Prisoner of War cannot be detained for more than 12 years. The family members of Shri Patri are still hopeful to get him back.

The hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik had requested the hon. Minister of External Affairs, Government of India in 2008 for taking early steps for release of Jawan Shri Patri. I have also requested the hon. Minister of External Affairs, Government of India through a letter dated 12.12.2020 for initiating talks with his counterpart in Pakistan for the early release of Shri Patri. There is no visible progress in the matter.

I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, to realize the gravity of the plight of the family and take essential steps for release of Jawan Shri Anand Patri.

Thank you, Sir.