

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5733
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
INDIAN IN PAK CAPTIVITY
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 1100 Indian nationals are believed to be in custody in Pakistan;
- (b) if so, whether only about 600 nationals have secured release during the last three years;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan Government for early release and repatriation of Indian nationals;
- (d) if so, the response of Pakistan Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government have sought international support on the issue; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

- (a) As per available information, there are 54 Indian defence personnel, 819 civilian prisoners and 302 fishermen detained in Pakistan. However, Pakistan has never acknowledged the existence of any POW in its custody and has conformed detention of only 160 Indian fishermen. Pakistan has not indicated the number of civilian prisoners in its custody.
- (b) A total of 611 Indian nationals detained in Pakistan have been repatriated to India since 1997.
- (c) The issue of early release and repatriation of Indian nationals under detention in Pakistan has been taken up repeatedly at all levels with the Government of Pakistan.
- (d) As a result of our efforts, Pakistan has recently agreed to release 84 Indian fishermen and has also provided consular access to 76 additional Indian fishermen. It is expected that these 160 fishermen would shortly return to India. Our efforts at securing the early release of the remaining Indian nationals in Pakistani custody will continue.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise