

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:457  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002  
PRISONERS LANGUISHING IN INDIA AND PAK JAILS  
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India and Pakistan both have set free the prisoners of each other during the last three years till date;
- (b) if so, the category-wise and year-wise numbers of prisoners released by both the countries separately;
- (c) whether talks have been held to set free the remaining prisoners;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Pakistan has apprehended and put the citizens of India behind the bars;
- (f) if so, the number of such prisoners as on date;
- g) the steps being taken by the Government for their release;
- h) whether the Government propose to approach International Red-Cross or International Human Rights Commission to investigate the presence of Indian prisoners of war languishing in Pakistani jails in view of the denial of Pakistan Government of their presence; and
- i) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (i) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO

(i) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 457 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.04.2002

(a & b) The details of prisoners released by either country is furnished below:

Indian prisoners released by Pakistan:

1999	:	122 Fishermen	and	17 civilian prisoners
2000	:	22 Fishermen	and	07 civilian prisoners
2001	:	403 Fishermen	and	39 civilian prisoners

Pakistani prisoners released by India:

1999	:	26 fishermen	and	57 civilian prisoners
2000	:	44 fishermen	and	42 civilian prisoners
2001	:	362 fishermen	and	51 civilian prisoners.

(c) to (i) Prisoners are released in accordance with a set procedure after their jail sentence is over. It includes the granting of consular

access and verification of national status of the detainees by the concerned Government. As per information available Pakistan has 812 civilian prisoners and 263 Indian fishermen in its custody. In addition, 54 POWs are also believed to be in Pakistan's custody. Government has been taking all possible steps for the early release and repatriation of all the Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. In keeping with our policy in relation to Pakistan, Government have taken up this issue bilaterally.