

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:912

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE JAILS

MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY;PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH;SUKDEO PASWAN

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

- (a) whether a number of prisoners of war including the Kargil war are still languishing in Pakistani jails;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with Pakistan Government for their release; and
- (d) if so, the response of Pakistan Government in this regard?

**Answer**

ANSWER THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-

(d) According to available information, 54 Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) are believed to be in the custody of Pakistan. Pakistan has consistently maintained that no Indian POWs are in its custody. The matter has been taken up on several occasions with Pakistan at various levels including that of Prime Minister. During his visit to Pakistan from 20-21 February, 1999, Prime Minister raised this issue with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the two sides appointed a 2 member committee at Ministerial level to examine humanitarian issues, including that of the missing POWs. The matter was also raised at the official level discussions held with Pakistan on March 5-6, 1999. The Pakistani side stated that there were no Indian POWs in its custody, but agreed to re-examine the matter afresh. Government will continue to purposefully pursue this matter with Pakistan.