

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7970
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
RELEASE OF FISHERMEN FROM PAK CAPTIVITY
DAHYA BHAI V. PATEL;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fishermen released by Pakistan recently;
- (b) whether a number of fishermen are still languishing in Pak jails;
- (c) if so, since when they are in Pak captivity;
- (d) the succour being provided to the families of such fishermen; and
- (e) the efforts being made to secure their release?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)to(e) 22 Indian fishermen were repatriated to India on April 23, 2000 following their release on the night of April 22-23, 2000.

According to available information, 112 Indian fishermen are held in Pakistani custody. These fishermen were apprehended by the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency during the period October, 1999 to January, 2000.

Government is in continuous contact with Pakistan through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of these fishermen.