

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:8016
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
POWS
JAI BHADRA SINGH;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some officials of his Ministry visited an Indian national who was released recently from Pakistani jail after over 25 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the succour proposed to be provided to him;
- (c) the number of POWs released from Pakistani jails so far; and
- (d) the number of POWs reported dead so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)&(b) Government officials are in contact with Shri Roop Lal Saharia, an Indian national, who was repatriated on 14.4.2000 after being held for more than 25 years in Pakistani custody.

(c)&(d) During the 1971 war, 532 Indian soldiers were taken prisoners of war by Pakistan. All these soldiers were repatriated to India. Subsequently Government was informed about 54 missing Indian defence personnel whose cases were taken up with the Government of Pakistan. Pakistan has consistently maintained that there are no Indian POWs in its custody. Since Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of Indian POWs in its custody, Government have no available information about their welfare.