

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3120

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003

INDIANS LANGUISHING IN UKRAINE JAILS

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;BHASKAR RAO PATIL;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether hundreds of Indians are languishing in Ukraine jails as reported in the Statesman dated January 29, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their early release?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

- (a) (b) (c) There are currently, 369 persons claiming to be Indian citizens under detention in Ukraine who were arrested for entering the country illegally.
- (d) The Indian Embassy in Kyiv actively seeks the release and the repatriation to India of those illegal immigrants whose Indian citizenship has been established after verification from the Passport Office or State Governments concerned.