

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3629
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
INDIAN CHILDREN LANGUISHING IN PAK JAILS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many Indian children are in Pak jails;
- (b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get them released?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (c) According to available information, 7 children of Indian fishermen are under detention in Pakistani jail. These children, in the age group of 9 to 17 years, were detained by the Pakistani authorities following apprehension of their fishing boats by the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency during the period between October and December, 1999.

The issue of early release and repatriation of these children is being pursued with Pakistan through diplomatic channels and it is our hope and expectation that these children would be released soon.