

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4235
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
INHUMAN TREATMENT WITH INDIAN PRISONERS IN PAKISTAN
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the reports of inhuman treatment being meted out to the Indian prisoners in Pakistan has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the Government of Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, the details of the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Over 640 Indian nationals are estimated to be in jails in Pakistan. Government are gravely concerned at the prolonged incarceration of our nationals in Pakistan, often without consular access.
- (c)&(d) These issues are taken up with Government of Pakistan consistently at the Home Secretary level talks as also in different bilateral meetings including at the highest level. During the visit of EAM to Pakistan on January 13-14 2007, it was decided to form a Judicial Committee comprising judges from India and Pakistan to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The Committee first met on 26-27 February 2008 in New Delhi. It recommended that a consolidated list with full particulars and their present status of nationals in each other's jails be exchanged on 31 March 2008 and those prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been verified be released forthwith. The lists of prisoners have been exchanged by the two Governments on March 31. India expects the Government of Pakistan to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Committee to release and provide consular access to all detained fishermen and prisoners.