

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6554

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

PRISONERS OF WAR

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Tewari Shri Manish

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of occasions since 1971 the Government has taken up the issue of Indian Prisoners of War (POWs) being illegally held in Pakistani prisons;
- (b) the details of such dates and meetings, date and meeting-wise since 1971;
- (c) the response of Pakistan at each of the meetings;
- (d) whether any evidence was provided to the Pakistan in a structured form based upon evidence available with the families of the missing POWs as well as visual evidence of sightings and meetings provided by Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails and who have since then returned to India;
- (e) the estimated service personnel still believed to be POWs (Prisoners of War) of both 1965 and 1971 wars and those who are confirmed as having not being killed in action and are missing;
- (f) the number of Pakistani POWs of the 1965 and 1971 wars who are still in Indian custody, those who accidentally may have been left in prison as a result of some systemic failure; and
- (g) the benefits provided to the families of service personnel who are missing in Action and could possibly be POWs in Pakistan?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d) Government has repeatedly taken up the matter with Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels and during high-level contacts for the release of Indian Prisoners of War believed to be in Pakistan. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any Indian Prisoners of War in its custody. During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in January 2007, Pakistan Government was persuaded to receive a delegation of relatives of Missing Defence Personnel to permit them to visit prisons in Pakistan, where they are believed to be incarcerated. A delegation of relatives, accordingly, visited 10 jails in Pakistan from June 1-14, 2007. The delegation could not conclusively confirm the physical presence of the Indian Prisoners of War. Pursuant to the visit of the delegation of relatives of Missing Defence Personnel, a Tri-Service Committee for monitoring matters on the subject has been formed in the Ministry of Defence.

(e): According to available information, 74 Missing Defence Personnel including 54 Prisoners of War are believed to be in Pakistani jails since 1971.

(f): Prime Minister had written to Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1991 that thorough investigations had been carried out and it had been conveyed to the Pakistani Government that there were no Pakistani defence personnel detained in India.

(g): As per the extant orders, missing defence personnel are presumed killed after six months of their being declared as missing for grant of terminal benefits to the Next of Kin. Next of Kin of missing Prisoners of War are granted Liberalized Family Pension/Special Family Pension/Dependent Pension as per entitlement.