

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1783
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have freed prisoners of each other during the last three years till date;
- (b) if so, the year-wise number of prisoners freed by each country alongwith their categories;
- (c) the number of Indian citizens captured by Pakistan during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the total number of Indians in the captivity of Pakistan at present; and
- (e) the effective measures taken by the Government to get these persons released from Pakistan?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) India and Pakistan have released a number of prisoners in the last three years. India released 63 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 58 fishermen in 2007, 98 civilian prisoners and 14 fishermen in 2008, 5 civilian prisoners in 2009. 50 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 50 fishermen have been released till date in 2010. Pakistan released 36 Indian civilian prisoners and 265 fishermen in 2007, 8 civilian prisoners and 230 fishermen in 2008, 100 fishermen in 2009 and 17 civilian prisoners in 2010.

(c) & (d) Pakistan arrested 124 Indian fishermen in 2007, 218 in 2008, 274 in 2009 and 48 in 2010. It is believed that there are 211 civilian prisoners in Pakistani custody. As per available information, there are 582 Indian fishermen in Pakistani custody.

(e) Government of India has been consistently taking up the issue of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails with the Government of Pakistan at all appropriate levels. The matter was raised with Pakistan at the talks between Foreign Secretaries on 25th February, 2010 in New Delhi and 24th June, 2010, during Home Minister's meeting in Islamabad on 25th June 2010 and during Foreign Minister level talks in Islamabad on 15th July 2010. Further, an India-Pak Judicial Committee on Prisoners consisting of four retired judges from each side has been set up to recommend steps for humane treatment and expeditious release prisoners of the respective countries in each other's jails. The committee has so far had three meetings and has given several recommendations.