

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1515

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011

PAKISTANI NATIONALS IN JAILS

Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Pakistani nationals arrested and lodged in various jails of the country, State-wise including Tihar Jail;
- (b) whether there are reports that Pakistani nationals lodged in Tihar Jail are refusing to return to their country and wanted to stay in India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): As per information available, 360 Pakistani prisoners and 18 Pakistani fishermen (Totaling 378) are presently lodged in various jails in India. This includes 80 Pakistani prisoners lodged in Tihar jail in Delhi. State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

(b) to (d): On behalf of 65 Pakistani nationals who are members of the Mehdi Foundation International (Gohar Shahis) presently lodged in Tihar Jail (which includes 12 children), a Writ Petition was filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi seeking stay on their deportation apprehending that they will be persecuted in Pakistan. On this Writ Petition, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has granted a stay on their deportation, which is presently valid till 30.11.2011. In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has conducted refugee status determination in respect of these Pakistan nationals. Based on the report of UNHCR, Government has decided to accept them as refugees and to request UNHCR to locate a third country to which these persons can be sent. UNHCR has initiated action to locate a third country where these Pakistani nationals could be sent.