

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2730
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
MISSING INDIAN SOLDIERS
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Sule Supriya

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Indian soldier of 1971 Indo-Pak war is still missing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Indian soldier is languishing in Arab countries' jails;
- (d) if so, the details of Indian soldiers in foreign jails; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to bring back the soldiers?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2730 FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.2012

Fifty four (54) missing defence personnel of 1965 and 1971 Wars (including one from Border Security Force) are believed to be in the custody in Pakistan.

The Government has repeatedly been taking up the matter with the Pakistan Government. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any such personnel in its custody. A delegation of 14 relatives of missing defence also visited 10 Jails in Pakistan during 1st June, 2007 - 14th June, 2007. The delegation, however, could not conclusively confirm the physical presence of any missing defence personnel. Following media reports stating that some Indian prisoners of 1971 War were lodged in Omani Jail, the Indian Embassy in Muscat (Oman) formally took up the issue with Omani Foreign Office seeking factual status and consular access and release of Indian POWs, if any, in Omani Jails. However, there has been no official / formal response from the Omani side.