

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:933  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009  
INDIAN LANGUISHING IN JAILS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to sign bilateral agreement with some of the countries for the release of Indian nationals languishing in jails of those countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) Yes.

(b) Under the Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003 India has signed and ratified Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons with Bulgaria, Cambodia, Egypt, France, Mauritius and United Kingdom. Also, India and Pakistan have signed an Agreement on Consular Access on May 21, 2008 which provides that both the Governments agree to release and repatriate persons within one month of confirmation of their national status and completion of sentences.

(c) Such agreements are negotiated only with the interested countries and are finalized through mutual negotiations.