

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2329
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
INDIAN FISHERMEN IN PAKISTANI JAILS
Pathak Shri Harin;Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fishermen taken into custody/arrested by Pakistan during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) the number of fishermen who have been released, year-wise and the number still languishing in Pakistani jails; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to secure the release of the remaining fishermen?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (c) As per available information, the details of fishermen believed to be Indian who have been detained by Pakistan and Indian fishermen who have been released by Pakistan, in the last three years are as follows:

Year	2011	2012	2013
Fishermen believed to be Indian detained by Pakistan	476	250	349
Indian Fishermen released by Pakistan	103	667	390

As per available information, there are 232 fishermen believed to be Indian in Pakistani jails as on January 1, 2014. Consular Access to 98 of these fishermen has been provided by the Pakistani authorities. The nationality of 93 of them has been confirmed.

Government of India, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of all Indian prisoners, including fishermen, in Pakistani jails and takes up the matter with the Government of Pakistan for their early release. An India-Pakistan Judicial Committee has also been set up consisting of retired judges from both countries to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen, who have completed their prison term. Due to Government's efforts, 390 fishermen were released by Pakistan in 2013.