

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:138

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

LIST OF PRISONERS

Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan;Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have recently exchanged the list of persons who are in their respective jails and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the number of prisoners released by both the countries during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;
- (c) whether there is any concrete proposal to release the prisoners by both the countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which modalities for the same are likely to be worked out?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 138 REGARDING "LIST OF PRISONERS" FOR ANSWER ON 04.03.2015

As per Agreement on Consular Access between India and Pakistan 2008 both the countries have exchanged on 1st January 2015, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the list of nationals of each country lodged in the jails of the other country. As per the list given by Pakistan on 1 January 2015, there are 50 civil prisoners and 476 fishermen believed to be Indian in Pakistani custody. As per the list handed over to Pakistan, there are 253 Pakistani civil prisoners and 132 Pakistani fishermen in India's custody.

The number of Indian prisoners released by Pakistan and Pakistani prisoners released by India in the last three years is as follows:

	2012	2013	2014
Indian civil prisoners released by Pakistan	26	38	6
Indian fishermen released by Pakistan	677	390	185
Pakistani civil prisoners released by India	50	38	26
Pakistani fishermen released by India	64	28	74

In addition to the above, one civil prisoner and 172 Indian fishermen were released by Pakistan on 16 February 2015. One prisoner mentioned in the Pakistani list of January 1, 2015 was initially believed to be Indian, but was later found to be from Nepal. Therefore, the number of Indian prisoners, including fishermen, in Pakistani jails as on date is 352.

Government regularly takes up with the Pakistan authorities the issue of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners as well as providing them regular consular access. Government, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of all such Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. In addition, an India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners consisting of retired judges from the higher judiciary of both countries has also been constituted to look at humanitarian issues and ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen, who have completed their prison term.