

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:329

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015

Indians held Hostage in Iraq

Chaudhary Shri Santokh Singh;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has sought any status report about the Indians including persons from Punjab held hostage by the ISIS in Iraq;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the steps being taken to secure their release?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) The safety and security of Indian nationals held captive by the ISIS in Mosul, Iraq, remain a matter of foremost concern and preoccupation for the Government of India. The Government of India is in close and regular contact with relevant Iraqi Government authorities to obtain information on their whereabouts and safety. As per latest information from multiple third party sources, they are all safe. The Government is making all efforts and taking all steps to secure their release.

Among the steps taken to secure their release, External Affairs Minister has personally spoken to her counterpart Foreign Ministers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as well as other friendly countries in the region to assist in locating Indian nationals held captive in Iraq.
