

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3721

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015

Drug Carriers

Arunmozhihevan Shri A.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Indian Embassy in Kuwait has issued new advisory cautioning Indian nationals against becoming inadvertent drug carriers and on the ways to prevent prescription drugs from being mistaken for narcotics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that at present many Indian nationals

are detained serving sentences in the jails of Kuwait in cases relating to drugs/narcotics; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the intervention made by the Government of India to secure their release?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Yes, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait had issued a local advisory on 23 July 2015 for Indian nationals regarding the dangers of being implicated in a narcotics/drugs offence in Kuwait. An advisory on the same subject had also been issued earlier by the Mission on 29 May 2014.

(c) & (d) A total of 334 Indian nationals are in various jails in Kuwait, out of whom 216 are in the Central Jail of Kuwait. Out of this, 141 persons (including 4 women) are serving terms on charges related to drugs/narcotics. After verification of the Indian nationality of the persons concerned, our Mission makes all possible efforts with the Kuwaiti authorities to provide necessary assistance to Indians in jails, including requesting them for speedy trials, seeking remission of sentences, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in jails and repatriation to India of those who are released or are eligible for transfer to Indian prisons under the bilateral Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Our Mission officials regularly visit local jails to ascertain the welfare and well-being of imprisoned Indian nationals. Wherever possible, our Missions also request the local government for grant of amnesty to the arrested or convicted Indians.
