

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2833
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
EXPULSION OF INDIAN JOURNALISTS BY PAK
Kumar Shri Ashwini

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether few Indian journalists posted in Islamabad have allegedly been expelled by Pakistan Government recently;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Government of Pakistan asked the correspondent belonging to the 'Press Trust of India' and the correspondent belonging to 'The Hindu' newspaper to leave Pakistan by 14 May 2014. The correspondents have since returned to India.

(c) Government is of the view that it is regrettable that the Indian correspondents in Pakistan were asked to leave prematurely and suddenly only a few months after their arrival there. Not allowing independent journalists to function is a retrograde step as it will impede the free flow of information between India and Pakistan which has long been recognized as an important confidence building measure.