

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:934
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
INDIANS IN FOREIGN JAILS
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many Indian nationals are incarcerated in prisons of foreign countries despite having committed no crimes and if so, the facts thereof,
- (b) whether Indian embassies of the concerned countries possess details of such persons and if so, the details thereof, country-wise,
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take effective steps in consultation with the respective countries in securing their release by extending consular, legal and financial assistance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI V.K. SINGH

(a) and (b) : Information is being collected.

(c) & (d) Indian Missions/Posts abroad respond promptly to the requests/appeals by Indian citizens who are in distress. As soon as the information about detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by the Indian Mission/Post, it immediately contacts the local Foreign Office and other concerned local authorities to get consular access to the detained/ arrested Indian national to confirm his Indian nationality and ensure his welfare. In some countries where pro bono lawyers are available, the Mission arranges such legal assistance to the Indian prisoners. Government of India also provides initial legal assistance highly in some cases.

Steps taken by our Missions include requesting local authorities for speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails, issue of emergency certificates and repatriation to India of those who are released. In some countries, our Mission also requests the local government for grant of amnesty to the arrested Indians and if any mercy petition for remission of sentences is received from the family members of the Indian prisoners, the Mission forwards them to the local authorities for consideration.