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Title: Need to take suitable steps for ensuring the release of Indians jailed in Pakistan. – Laid.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (HOSHIARPUR): A large number of youth from Punjab who were duped by dubious travel agents and were sent to foreign countries have been detained in various jails in Pakistan.

About 70 such youths have been illegally detained in Mach jail, Pakistan and more than 300 youth are illegally detained all over Pakistan. These youth who have been pushed to Pakistan through countries like Iran in order that they are pushed back to India were never sent to India. These youth who have been cheated by travel agents serve sentences in accordance with Pakistan law and even after completion of their sentences they have not been sent back to India.

A number of such youth are illegally detained in Pakistan for years even after completing their sentences. It is a matter of fact that whenever our foreign office seeks to contact these youth, the consular access is denied on one pretext or the other. Sir, you may understand that when our foreign office is also not able to help these youth who will help these youth. Why the issue is not being taken up at appropriate level by the foreign Ministry so that plight of these youth are heard and they are sent back to India. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to take up the issue at Minister's level so that innocent youth from India who are mostly from Punjab are sent back to India.