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Title: Regarding alleged imprisonment of Balwinder Singh by Pakistan since 1971 Indo-Pak War.

*SHRI RANJIT SINGH BRAHMPURA (KHADOOR SAHIB): I thank you Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important matter. I want to raise the matter of the Indian soldier Balwinder Singh who was captured by Pakistan during the 1971 Indo-Pak war. He hailed from my constituency. He was imprisoned in the Kot Lakhpat Rail Jail. Balwinder Singh was a soldier of the Sikh Regiment of Indian Army. His serial No. was 33620503. There were 176 Indian prisoners incarcerated in Kot Lakhpat Rail jail in 1976. Satish Kumar was also imprisoned in Kot Lakhpat Rail Jail. He was released later on by Pakistan. In an affidavit, he gave a statement that Balwinder was present in Kot Lakhpat jail from 1974 to 1976. He was a co-prisoner of Balwinder Singh from 19th July, 1974 to 1976.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wind up.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH BRAHMPURA : Excuse me, Sir. I'll wind up in one minute. It is an important matter. The Indian Army has granted pension to the widow of Balwinder Singh as he was presumed dead in the war. However, Balwinder Singh had been seen alive in Kot Lakhpat jail between 1974 and 1976 by his co-prisoner Satish Kumar. This proves that Balwinder Singh had not died during the war but was alive and in Pakistan's custody. There were also reports of Balwinder Singh's presence in the Attock fort of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

I believe that Balwinder Singh is still alive and present in Pakistan's captivity. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to take up this matter with Pakistan so that he is released from the jail at the earliest and brought back to India (Punjab).

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ranjit Singh Brahmura.