



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO.1464 INDIANS IN JAILS OF SAUDI ARABIA

March 10, 2016

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1464
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2016

INDIANS IN JAILS OF SAUDI ARABIA

1464. SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals are languishing in various jails of Saudi Arabia most of them are trapped in due to their ignorance of laws and legal procedures in that country; and
- (b) if so, the number of Indian nationals arrested and detained in various jails in Saudi Arabia and measures being taken by the Indian Embassy officials to provide them legal help and get them freed and deported back to the country?

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

(a) & (b) As per the information available with our Embassy in Saudi Arabia, 1575 Indian nationals are in Saudi jails. They are convicted of crimes committed by them in violation of Laws and Regulations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Indian Embassy takes all possible steps, to protect the rights of Indians in Saudi jails. These include: (i) regular visits to all the jails in Saudi Arabia; (ii) provision of Arabic-speaking Interpreters to visit the jails to assist the Indians; (iii) provision of initial legal assistance with the help of Arabic-knowing experts, well-versed in Saudi laws and Sharia laws; (iv) regular interaction with Saudi police and jail authorities to provide assistance to Indians in jail; (v) taking up their cases with Saudi authorities through diplomatic

channels; (vi) fully utilizing the services of Embassy-registered volunteers from the Indian community to help the inmates; (vii) efforts to protect the inmates and their families from touts and agents who try to exploit them by offering untenable legal assistance, and conducting regular investigation into the affairs of such touts who try to exploit Indians in jails; (viii) providing travel documents, including Emergency Certificates for expeditious travel of those who completed their sentences; (ix) providing airfares to deserving cases to avoid any delay in their departure, and; (x) ascertaining the welfare of the jail inmates, including through consular access through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In deserving cases, penalties/fines are paid out of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). Our Mission also forwards mercy petitions received from the family members of convicted Indians on charges of murder for clemency and release.



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Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.