GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 417

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015

Release of Fishermen by Pakistan

VISHNU DAYAL RAM

(a)the details of Indian prisoners, including fishermen in Pakistani Jails and vice-versa;
(b)the number of prisoners released by both the countries during the holy month of Ramadan; and
(c)the details of visits of officials from Pakistan facilitated by India to establish the nationality of the prisoners and vice-versa?

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRSbe pleased to state:-

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As per available information there are 408 prisoners believed to be Indian lodged in Pakistani jails apart from the 74 missing defence personnel that are also believed to be in Pakistan's custody but whose presence has not been acknowledged so far by Pakistan. As on 1 July 2015 there are 278 Pakistani prisoners lodged in Indian jails.

During Prime Minister's telephone call to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 16 June 2015 to convey his Ramadan greetings, Prime Minister also conveyed our decision to release 88 Pakistani fishermen detained in Indian jails; the fishermen were released on 21 June 2015. Pakistan released 113 Indian fishermen on 19 June 2015.

Government has been regularly organizing consular access for Pakistani officials to meet prisoners in Indian jails believed to be Pakistani citizens. Furthermore, under the guidelines of the Supreme Court of India all prisoners whose nationality have been confirmed and have completed their sentences are required to be released from jail expeditiously. Government also regularly takes up with the Pakistan authorities the issue of early release and repatriation of Indian prisoners in their custody. It also monitors the status of all such persons on a regular basis.

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