

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.490
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2022

SOLIDERS IMPRISONED IN PAKISTANI JAILS

490. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Indian soldiers are currently imprisoned illegally in Pakistan Jails;
- (b) if so, the details of such Indian prisoners held in Pakistani jails, illegally and the dates since when they are inmates;
- (c) the number of representations received by the Union Government from family members of imprisoned Indian soldiers to get them released from jails;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps or has sought/considering to seek attention of International organisations to ensure release of imprisoned Indian citizens and soldiers from Pakistan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the effective steps being taken by the Government to get Indian citizens and soldiers released from Pakistan's jails?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V.MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (e) As per available information, 83 Indian defence personnel, including prisoners of war, are believed to be in Pakistan's custody, but their presence has not been acknowledged by Pakistan so far. The Government has been consistently taking up the matter of release and repatriation of the missing defence personnel with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. The matter was last raised by the High Commission of India in Islamabad with the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its communication dated 01 January 2022.

The Government, upon receipt of reports of apprehension of Indian prisoners and fishermen, immediately takes up the matter with Pakistan through diplomatic channels and seeks consular access and their early release and repatriation. Government's persistent efforts have succeeded in repatriation of 2193 Indian prisoners, including fishermen, from Pakistan's custody since 2014.
