

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4931  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2022**

**INDIAN PRISONERS IN FOREIGN JAILS**

**4931. DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:**

**SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indian prisoners are languishing in foreign jails for very long period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to bring back the Indians who are in foreign jails and to expedite the process in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of prisoners exchanged by India during the last two years and current year, country-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including under-trials, in foreign jails at present is 8278, out of which 156 are serving life sentence. Country-wise list is given at Annexure - I. However, due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Even countries which share information do not generally provide detailed information about the foreigners imprisoned.

(c) & (d) The Government attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indians in foreign countries, including those in the foreign jails. Indian Missions / Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor the incidents of Indian nationals being put in jail in foreign countries for violation/ alleged violation of local laws.

As soon as the information about the detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by an Indian Mission/Post, it immediately gets in touch with the local Foreign Office and other concerned local authorities to get consular access to the detained/arrested Indian national to ascertain the facts of the case, confirm his Indian nationality and ensure his welfare. Apart from extending them all possible consular assistance, Indian Missions and Posts also assist in providing legal aid wherever needed. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizeable numbers.

The issue of repatriation of Indian nationals in foreign prisons is regularly pursued by Indian Missions and Posts abroad with the local authorities concerned. The Government also follows up this issue during consular and other consultations with other countries, including in the context of bilateral agreements for Transfer of Sentenced Persons [TSP], wherever applicable.

In addition, the Government, through its Missions/Posts abroad and during high level visits, also takes up and pursues grant of amnesty/commutation of sentences of Indian prisoners in foreign countries.

(e) From January, 2020 till February, 2022, 2 Indian nationals have been transferred from Sri Lanka to India, 1 German national has been transferred from India to Germany and 2 Bangladeshi nationals have been transferred from India to Bangladesh under the Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003 to serve the remainder of their sentence.

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**Annexure - I****Lok Sabha FAQ 4931 - Indian Prisoners In Foreign Jails**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Indians in foreign jails</b>	<b>Number of Indians serving life sentence</b>
1	Albania	1	0
2	Argentina	1	1
3	Australia	80	3
4	Austria	6	2
5	Azerbaijan	4	0
6	Bahrain	163	13
7	Bangladesh	50	0
8	Belarus	2	0
9	Belgium	12	0
10	Bhutan	70	4
11	Cambodia	5	0
12	Cameroon	1	0
13	Canada	23	0
14	Chile	1	0
15	China	195	13
16	Congo	1	0
17	Côte d'Ivoire	5	0
18	Cuba	1	0
19	Cyprus	20	1
20	Denmark	4	1
21	Ecuador	3	0
22	Egypt	2	1
23	Fiji	1	0
24	France	29	0
25	Georgia	12	0
26	Germany	76	0
27	Ghana	1	0
28	Greece	22	0
29	Indonesia	32	1

30	Iran	7	0
31	Iraq	3	0
32	Israel	6	1
33	Italy	437	0
34	Japan	6	1
35	Jordan	11	1
36	Kenya	1	0
37	Kuwait	458	28
38	Kyrgyzstan	2	0
39	Laos	2	0
40	Lebanon	3	0
41	Madagascar	11	0
42	Malawi	1	0
43	Malaysia	294	47
44	Maldives	10	1
45	Mauritius	7	0
46	Mexico	1	1
47	Morocco	1	0
48	Mozambique	7	0
49	Myanmar	39	0
50	Nepal	1112	0
51	North Macedonia	3	0
52	Oman	68	12
53	Pakistan	701	1
54	Paraguay	1	0
55	Philippines	35	0
56	Poland	6	1
57	Portugal	11	0
58	Qatar	473	7
59	Republic of Ireland	1	0
60	Republic of Korea	8	0
61	Romania	3	0
62	Russia	15	0
63	Saudi Arabia	1392	0
64	Senegal	4	0
65	Serbia	3	0
66	Singapore	119	1

67	Slovakia	1	0
68	Slovenia	2	0
69	South Africa	4	1
70	Spain	40	0
71	Sri Lanka	16	5
72	Sweden	1	0
73	Tanzania	1	0
74	Thailand	18	1
75	Trinidad and Tobago	2	0
76	Uganda	1	0
77	United Arab Emirates	1480	5
78	United Kingdom	373	0
79	USA	252	2
80	Vietnam	1	0
81	Yemen	1	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8278</b>	<b>156</b>

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