

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1625
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019

INDIANS HELD HOSTAGE

†1625. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian citizens, who were kept as hostage in other countries due to some reasons, repatriated to India from the year 2014 till date, country-wise;
- (b) the number of Indian citizens, who were kept as hostage, died in foreign jails or prisons from the year 2014 till date;
- (c) the number of Indian citizens languishing in foreign jails or prisons at present along with the details of crimes for which they have been imprisoned; and
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to repatriate those Indian citizens who were not involved in any crime or have been proved innocent but they have to stay in foreign jails due to some reasons?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) As per information available with the Ministry 49 Indian nationals who were held hostage in different countries were repatriated to India during 2014 – 2018. Details are enclosed in Annexure-I. In addition, mortal remains of 39 Indians who died while being held hostage by ISIS in Iraq, were also brought back to India.

(b) There are no cases of Indians who were held hostage and finally died in foreign jails or prisons. However, 42 Indian nationals died while serving their sentences in jails of foreign countries.

(c) As per information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners in foreign jails as of 08.02.2019 is 8567. Detailed country-wise list is given at Annexure-II.

(d) The safety and security of Indian nationals in foreign countries is a matter of foremost concern for the Government of India. The Government keeps a close watch on the situation in strife-torn countries, issues advisories wherever required and engages the local authorities regularly to prevent incidents of hostage/kidnapping, while simultaneously making every effort to secure the release of those in captivity.

Our Missions and Posts abroad also extend all possible help and assistance to the imprisoned Indian nationals including when they are detained by local

police/immigration authorities or put in prisons for violation of local laws or allegedly violation of local laws. Apart from extending them all possible consular assistance, Indian Missions and Posts abroad also assist in extending legal aid wherever needed. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizeable numbers. Legal assistance is also provided to Indian nationals abroad including those in prison on a means-tested basis in deserving cases through the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

ANNEXURE-I

S. No.	Name of Country	Number of Indians, who were kept as hostage in other countries due to some reasons, repatriated to India from the year 2014
1	Afghanistan	2
2	Kenya	18
3	Libya	6
4	Nigeria	14
5	Senegal	1
6	South Sudan	2
7	Thailand	3
8	Turkey	2
9	Yemen	1
	Total	49
	Iraq	39 (mortal remains brought back to India)

ANNEXURE-II

S. No.	Name of Country	Number of Indians in foreign jails	Details of crime
1	Armenia	9	N/A
2	Austria	5	Murder etc.
3	Australia	74	Sexual offence, armed robbery, stalking, murder, drugs etc.
4	Bahrain	121	Theft, bribe, alcohol consumption, financial fraud etc.
5	Belarus	2	Human trafficking etc.
6	Bangladesh	43	Narcotics act, Arms Act, smuggling, illegal entry, human trafficking etc.
7	Belgium	19	Various criminal offences etc.
8	Bhutan	56	Drugs, robbery, counterfeiting etc.
9	Brazil	2	Illegal entry etc.
10	Brunei	1	Murder
11	Cambodia	3	Drug trafficking, sexual offence, ATM fraud case etc.
12	Canada	69	Murder, sexual interference etc.
13	China	242	Drug smuggling, murder, theft, contract forgery, etc.
14	Cote d' Ivoire	1	Commercial dispute
15	Cuba	1	drug trafficking
16	Cyprus	15	Murder, drugs smuggling/possession, physical assault, culpable homicide, traffic accident, burglary, sexual abuse, attempt to murder, drink and driving, etc.
17	Denmark	5	Illegal stay & murder etc.
18	Egypt	1	Drug-trafficking
19	Fiji	1	Drugs
20	Finland	1	NA
21	France	12	Attempt to murder, murder, sexual abuse, boarder crossing and fighting with the employer, etc.
22	Germany	51	NA
23	Ghana	1	Misappropriation of funds
24	Greece	20	Carrying explosive material, etc.
25	Guatemala	2	N/A
26	Hungary	2	forged visa etc.
27	Indonesia	18	Narcotics etc.
28	Iran	2	Oil smuggling etc.
29	Iraq	3	fake travel document, drug smuggling and impersonation etc.
30	Israel	8	Murder and visa violation etc.
31	Italy	154	NA
32	Japan	7	Murder cum robbery, narcotics, murder etc.
33	Jordan	6	Murder, kidnapping, drug abuse, etc.
34	Korea (Republic of)	2	fake passport and unfair trade practices etc.

35	Kuwait	483	Murder, drug charges etc.
36	Kyrgyzstan	2	Economic offence and forging educational documents etc.
37	Lao PDR	2	Human trafficking and cheating case etc.
38	Lebanon	4	Murder and kidnapping etc.
39	Malaysia	486	Drug smuggling, immigration violation, murder, rape etc.
40	Maldives	14	Drug-trafficking etc.
41	Mauritius	5	Drug smuggling etc.
42	Mozambique	2	Kidnapping etc.
43	Myanmar	78	Immigration offence etc.
44	Nepal	886	Murder, rape, drugs and arms smuggling, robbery, kidnapping, organized crime etc.
45	Netherlands	1	Murder
46	New Zealand	13	NA
47	Nigeria	1	Oil smuggling
48	Oman	59	Drugs smuggling, oil smuggling and fight with employers etc.
49	Pakistan	536	Illegal stay and illegal boarder crossing etc.
50	Panama	1	Human trafficking
51	Phillipines	24	Kidnapping, murder, narcotics etc.
52	Poland	6	sexual abuse, murder etc.
53	Portugal	5	Murder, drug-trafficking etc.
54	Qatar	212	Check bounced, drug-trafficking, murder, bribery etc.
55	Russian Federation	7	drugs smuggling, financial fraud, selling fake drugs, illegal boarder crossing, murder etc.
56	Saudi Arabia	2224	Alcohol, accident, bribery, cheating, drugs, murder, kidnapping etc.
57	Serbia	2	fake passport etc.
58	Senegal	1	Cheating
59	Singapore	101	Commercial crime, drug offence, property dispute, traffic offence etc.
60	South Africa	3	Economic offence, murder and sexual offences etc.
61	Spain	37	N/A
62	Sri Lanka	72	Drug and gold smuggling, human trafficking, visa violation and IT fraud etc.
63	Tanzania	1	Murder
64	Thailand	43	NA
65	Turkey	2	Kidnapping, terrorism etc.
66	Uganda	1	Embezzlement of funds
67	United Arab Emirates	1606	Murder, drugs, alcohol, cheque bounced, financial frauds etc.
68	United Kingdom	373	NA
69	Ukraine	1	financial fraud
70	United States of America	313	Illegal stay and various crimes etc.
71	Vietnam	1	Robbery
	Total	8567	
