

*125. [प्रश्नकर्ता (श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर) अनुपस्थित थे]

विभिन्न देशों की जेलों में बंद भारतीय मछुआरे

*125. श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर: क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विभिन्न देशों की जेलों में बंद भारतीय मछुआरों का देश-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) सरकार द्वारा उनकी रिहाई सुनिश्चित कर उन्हें देश में वापस लाने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री [जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) वी. के. सिंह]: (क) और (ख) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) मंत्रालय के पास उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार उन मछुआरों, जिनके बारे में समझा जाता है कि उन्हें पड़ोसी देशों द्वारा गिरफ्तार किया गया/जेलों में बंद किया गया है, का देशवार ब्योरा विवरण-1 (नीचे देखिए) में दिया गया है।

(ख) सरकार भारतीय मछुआरों की सुरक्षा, हिफाजत तथा कल्याण को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता देती है। हमारे मिशन तथा केंद्र विदेशों में बंदी बनाए गए भारतीय मछुआरों को नियमित रूप से कौंसुली सुविधाएं प्रदान करते हैं, उनकी देख-भाल सुनिश्चित करते हैं और साथ ही नौकाओं सहित उनकी शीघ्र रिहाई तथा देश वापसी का भी प्रयास करते हैं। इस मुद्दे से जुड़े मानवीय तथा आजीविका संबंधी आयामों को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने भारत और संबंधित देशों के बीच सहयोग एवं समझबूझ सुनिश्चित करने, भारतीय मछुआरों की सुरक्षा एवं हिफाजत को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने अनेक द्विपक्षीय तंत्र स्थापित किए हैं।

पाकिस्तान के मामले में हमारे पास मई, 2008 में कौंसुली सुविधा से संबंधित एक द्विपक्षीय करार की व्यवस्था है। भारत-पाकिस्तान संयुक्त न्यायिक समिति, जिसमें दोनों देशों के उच्चतम न्यायालय के सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश शामिल हैं, दोनों देशों के कारावासों का दौरा करते हैं ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि कैदियों, जिनमें दोनों देशों के वे मछुआरें भी शामिल हैं जिन्होंने अपनी कारावास की सजा पूरी कर ली है, के साथ मानवतापूर्ण व्यवहार हो तथा उनकी शीघ्र रिहाई हो सके।

श्रीलंका के मामले में हमारा मिशन भारतीय मछुआरों की रिहाई तथा देश वापसी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए श्रीलंका के रक्षा मंत्रालय, अटॉनी जनरल के कार्यालय तथा संबंधित कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों के साथ मिलकर कार्य करता है। मात्स्यिकी संबंधी एक संयुक्त कार्य समूह तथा एक संयुक्त मात्स्यिकी समिति मौजूद है जो अक्टूबर, 2008 की वास्तविक व्यवस्थाओं से संबद्ध द्विपक्षीय सहमति के आधार पर मछुआरों से संबंधित मुद्दों को सुलझाती है। इसके अलावा भारत तथा श्रीलंका में मछुआरा संघों के बीच समय-समय पर बातचीत भी होती है।

बांग्लादेश के मामले में, जब कभी भी किसी भारतीय मछुआरे को गिरफ्तार किए जाने की सूचना प्राप्त होती है, मिशन भारत में संबंधित जिलाधिकारियों से उस व्यक्ति की भारतीय

नागरिकता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सम्पर्क करता है और तत्पश्चात् उसकी रिहाई के लिए बांग्लादेशी प्राधिकारियों से सम्पर्क करता है। इसके लिए मिशन विदेश मंत्रालय से कौंसुली संपर्क की मांग करता है और बांग्लादेश में कैद के दौरान उसकी देखभाल के लिए स्थानीय गैर सरकारी संगठनों से सम्पर्क करता है।

विवरण-।

विभिन्न देशों की जेलों में बंद भारतीय मछुआरों का ब्यौरा

देश	वर्तमान में विदेशी जेलों में बंद भारतीय मछुआरों की संख्या
बांग्लादेश	10
ईरान	8
पाकिस्तान	220
श्रीलंका	34

***125. [The Questioner (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR) was absent]**

Indian fishermen in jails of various countries

†*125. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian fishermen detained in the jails of various countries, country-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to secure their release and bring them back to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per information available with the Ministry, the country-wise details of fishermen who are believed to be apprehended/imprisoned by neighbouring countries are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Government attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. Our Missions and Posts regularly seek consular access to Indian fishermen detained in foreign countries, ensure their welfare and also pursue their early release and repatriation, along with their boats. Given the humanitarian

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and livelihood dimensions of this issue, the Government has put in place several bilateral mechanisms to ensure cooperation and understanding between India and the countries concerned, to promote the safety and security of Indian fishermen.

In case of Pakistan, we have a bilateral Agreement on Consular Access, signed in May, 2008. The India-Pakistan Joint Judicial Committee, consisting of retired judges of superior judiciary from the two countries, visit jails in both countries, to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen on both sides, who have completed their prison terms.

In the case of Sri Lanka, our Mission works closely with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence, the Attorney General's Office and the law enforcement agencies concerned, to secure the release and repatriation of our fishermen. There is a Joint Working Group on Fisheries and a Joint Committee on Fisheries, which take up fishermen's issues for resolution on basis of the bilateral Understanding on Practical Arrangements of October, 2008. In addition, talks are held from time to time between Fishermen's Associations in India and Sri Lanka.

In the case of Bangladesh, on receipt of information of the arrest of Indian fishermen, Mission contacts the concerned District Magistrates in India to ascertain their Indian nationality and thereafter pursue with the Bangladesh Authorities for their release. For this, Mission seeks consular access from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and contacts local NGOs for their welfare during their imprisonment in Bangladesh.

Statement

Details of Indian fishermen in jails of various countries

Country	No. of Indian Fishermen currently in foreign jails
Bangladesh	10
Iran	8
Pakistan	220
Sri Lanka	34

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 125. Questioner is not present. Let the reply be laid. Now, Mr. Tarun Vijay.

SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot of issues has been raised about Tamil Nadu fishermen who are continuously caught by the Sri Lankan Army. And, they are always feeling very distressed and this issue has become one of the principal issues in Tamil Nadu. What is the Government's policy on it? Why, after every fortnight, every month, we see a lot of such incidents where Tamil Nadu

[Shri Tarun Vijay]

fishermen are caught by the Sri Lankan Army and then negotiations are held with the Sri Lankan Government at the highest level. There has to be a lasting solution to this problem. What is the Government's view about it as thousands of Sri Lankan refugees are still living in Chennai and in other areas in abject poverty and sub-human conditions? What is the Government's policy about that? Kindly apprise us so that we find a lasting solution to it. It should not become a recurring feature as we and Sri Lanka are very friendly countries.

GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: Sir, the issue of fishermen with Sri Lanka is accorded the highest priority for safety and security of our fishermen. The problem basically is that till 2009 when the civil war conditions had prevailed, it was only our fishermen who were fishing in these waters and after 2009; the Sri Lanka fishermen have also started asserting themselves. Obviously, there is an issue of the maritime boundary which keeps getting crossed because it is physically not possible to mark things in the sea. Therefore, there are crossings for fishing because it is a livelihood matter. On this, there has been a Joint Working Group. There is a meeting of the Ministries in charge of fisheries from both the sides and there have been fishermen associations of both the countries who have met. So far, there have been no positive results for the simple reason that Sri Lanka insisted or alleged that our fishermen are involved in bottom trawling which is considered very bad in fishing circles because you are wiping out the complete marine life. They say that if you give an undertaking that your fishermen will not do bottom trawling, we can take a different view on to it. At the same time, we, at the highest level, have raised this issue a number of times and as on date, there are only 34 fishermen in 19 boats which are in custody. We have been ensuring that, from time to time, on various occasions our fishermen are released by the Sri Lankan Authorities. The last release that took place was of 99 Indian fishermen on April 9 in exchange for 9 Sri Lankan fishermen. But, this problem is acute till we achieve some sort of an understanding between the fishermen of both the sides.

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, there are three rounds of talks between the fishermen of both the countries being represented officially also. They have entered into agreements. According to the agreements, they can go in by the side of the border and they can do fishing. What is the problem in that issue? Why is the fourth round of talks not being held? Why is the Katchatheevu becoming an issue? Why were the boats not redeemed till now?

GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: Sir, like I said, the understanding has not been reached even after three rounds of talks between the two fishermen associations.

The Sri Lanka fishermen have said that you all are involved in bottom trawling and till that time that is stopped, we cannot have an agreement on fishing in each other's waters. That is the main issue which is stopping a proper agreement to come into place between the two countries.

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Sir, the Minister in his reply, in the case of Pakistan, has referred to a bilateral Agreement on Consular Access. It says, "That the India-Pakistan Joint Judicial Committee, consisting of retired Judges of superior judiciary from both countries visit jails. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how many such visits have taken place. When was the last visit undertaken? What have been the results of such visits? Are they facing impediments for this mechanism to work because while we are inviting many people into Pathankot, I don't believe it is reciprocal in these matters on the other side? Is this mechanism functioning or is it not?

GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, that Judicial Commission has nothing to do with things like Pathankot. Judicial Commission has been formed in which the retired Judges from both the sides are there. They go and see the conditions in jails. It is a regular process. They do report through this Commission to each other's country to see what the prevailing conditions are. Measures are taken based on this to ensure that the situation, if bad, is ameliorated in both the countries.

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: But, Sir, how frequently does this visit take place? What are the results? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have any more information on this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: Sir, this is only between India and Pakistan.

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: I am also definitely asking on India and Pakistan. When was this Indo-Pakistan Joint Judicial Commission allowed to visit Pakistan? When was the last such inspection done? What were the results of this visit?

GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: As per the list provided by the Pakistani Authorities, I think, this happened about six months back when the Commission visited jails to see the conditions.

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: You are providing information provided by Pakistan and not by your Ministry. *(Interruptions)*

GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: I am saying that as per ...*(Interruptions)*... Every six months, the Commission is meeting. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Is it functioning, Sir?

GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: Yes, it is functioning.

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Every six months! Then it is a matter of privilege for us!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Question No. 126.

Fake universities in the country

*126. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names and details of fake universities in the country;
- (b) whether they continue to function without any problem, if so, how; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to close them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per information available with the UGC, there are 22 universities which have been listed in the UGC list of Fake Universities and are functioning in contravention or violation of the UGC Act, 1956 in different parts of the country. The details are as under:

Bihar (1)

- (i) Maithili University/Vishwavidyalaya, Darbhanga, Bihar.

Delhi (5)

- (ii) Commercial University Ltd., Daryaganj, Delhi.
- (iii) United Nations University, Delhi.
- (iv) Vocational University, Delhi.
- (v) ADR-Centric Juridical University, ADR House, 8J, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008.
- (vi) Indian Institute of Science and Engineering, New Delhi.

Karnataka (1)

- (vii) Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society, Gokak, Belgaum, Karnataka.