

Help for Indian workers in foreign prisons

2809. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian workers presently being held in foreign prisons;
- (b) whether it is a fact that many Indians being held in foreign prisons are unable to afford proper legal assistance;
- (c) how does our Embassies help in instances where there are visa infringements by Indian workers;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that delays in providing identification proof and passport data from India is a major cause of delays in helping Indians abroad; and
- (e) the steps proposed to create a modern system so that all such data and passport information is available with our Embassies for instant authentication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (c) Due to the strict provisions of privacy laws, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and many countries in Europe do not share information about Indian nationals in their prisons. However, as per information available, 6567 Indian nationals are lodged in foreign jails. A list showing country-wise details is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Government of India has established the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in Indian Missions to enable them to meet contingency expenditure for carrying out various on-site welfare activities for Indian citizens abroad who are in distress. The Fund is aimed at providing services on a means-tested basis in deserving cases.

Under ICWF guidelines, Indian Missions and Posts abroad provide initial legal assistance, on request, to Indian nationals in deserving cases. This includes legal advice and guidance. There have been some instances of legal assistance out of ICWF for payment to lawyers who take up cases of Indian nationals in foreign jails. In some countries where *pro bono* lawyers are available, the Mission arranges such legal assistance for Indian prisoners.

Under ICWF, Indian Missions/Posts pay minor fines and penalties for illegal stay where the worker is not at fault. Indian Missions are also authorized to pay through ICWF for small fines/penalties for release of Indian nationals in jails/detention centres. Missions also provide assistance for incidental expenditure of Indian prisoners such as phone cards for calls to India; blankets, medicines, toiletries etc. On confirmation of nationality, Indian Missions issue travel documents to facilitate repatriation to India.

(d) and (e) All our Missions/Posts abroad are provided with the access to the central passport data base for instant authentication of passport details and documents submitted at the time of issue of passports. However, in some cases, where the police verification status on the online database is not 'Clear' and the PIAs have to go for fresh police verification of the passport holder, there may be some delays in providing identification proof and confirmation of passport details by the original Passport Issuing Authority. The Ministry issues instructions to all passport offices from time to time to expedite the issuance of confirmation to the respective Missions abroad, after taking up the matter with the police authorities concerned.

Statement

Indians workers in foreign prisons

Sl. No.	Country	Number of Indian prisoners
1.	Afghanistan	1
2.	Angola	2
3.	Armenia	4
4.	Australia	55
5.	Austria	5
6.	Azerbaijan	1
7.	Bahrain	235
8.	Bangladesh	130
9.	Belgium	25
10.	Bhutan	61
11.	Brunei Darussalam	2
12.	Cambodia	4
13.	Canada	18
14.	China	105
15.	Colombia	9
16.	Cuba	2
17.	Cyprus	6
18.	Denmark	18
19.	Egypt	5
20.	Fiji	2
21.	France	13

Sl. No.	Country	Number of Indian prisoners
22.	Germany	5
23.	Ghana	11
24.	Guatemala	5
25.	Indonesia	49
26.	Iran	35
27.	Iraq	2
28.	Ireland	1
29.	Israel	4
30.	Italy	39
31.	Japan	6
32.	Jordan	9
33.	Kenya	2
34.	Kuwait	325
35.	Kyrgyzstan	1
36.	Lebanon	8
37.	Madagascar	3
38.	Malaysia	293
39.	Maldives	26
40.	Mauritius	19
41.	Mexico	5
42.	Myanmar	71
43.	Nepal	614
44.	Netherlands	17
45.	New Zealand	10
46.	Niger	1
47.	Nigeria	13
48.	Oman	103
49.	Pakistan	518
50.	Panama	3
51.	Philippines	12
52.	Poland	2

Sl. No.	Country	Number of Indian prisoners
53.	Portugal	3
54.	Qatar	87
55.	Republic of Korea	2
56.	Romania	2
57.	Russian Federation	6
58.	Saudi Arabia	1896
59.	Senegal	1
60.	Seychelles	1
61.	Singapore	147
62.	South Africa	8
63.	Spain	21
64.	Sri Lanka	39
65.	Suriname	2
66.	Tanzania	1
67.	Thailand	64
68.	Uganda	2
69.	Ukraine	2
70.	United Arab Emirates	764
71.	United Kingdom	4
72.	USA	595
73.	Uzbekistan	1
74.	Yemen	3
75.	Zambia	1
TOTAL		6567

Process for becoming member of MTCR

2810. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) to what extent the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) succeeded in controlling spread of missiles, chemical weapons and nuclear attacks;
- (b) the details of process for becoming a member of the MTCR; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Ministry to become a member of the MTCR?