

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2003
ANSWERED ON- 08/08/2024

INDIAN CITIZENS DETAINED ABROAD

#2003. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of Indian citizens in foreign countries imprisoned in different cases at present the country-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether any concrete steps have been taken by Government for their release, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the number of Indian citizens sentenced to death or life imprisonment in foreign countries during the last five years, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including undertrials, in foreign prisons at present is 9728. Country-wise list is given at Annexure A. 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 foreign nationals imprisoned.

(b) 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 cases 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 or her Indian nationality and ensure his or her welfare. Missions/Posts remain vigilant to ensure that rights of the Indian prisoners in foreign jails are protected.

Apart from extending all possible consular assistance to Indians imprisoned abroad, 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. No fee is charged from any Indian prisoner for extending facilities by the Indian Embassy concerned. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is set up in Indian Missions & Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations on a means tested basis in deserving cases. The support extended under ICWF includes financial assistance to Indian prisoners for legal aid as well as travel documents / air tickets during repatriation.

The issue of release and repatriation of Indian nationals in foreign prisons is regularly pursued by Indian Missions and Posts abroad with the local authorities concerned. Missions/Posts abroad also

approach the law enforcement agencies to complete the investigation and judicial proceedings at the earliest possible. The Government also follows up this issue during consular and other consultations with other countries. 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. India has also entered into prisoner transfer treaties with many nations that allow a person convicted of a crime to be transferred to his or her home country to serve the prison sentence.

(c) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian citizens sentenced to death or life imprisonment in foreign countries during the last ten years, Country-wise is given at Annexure B.

S. No.	Country	Number of Indian prisoners, including under trials, in foreign prisons
1	Afghanistan	8
2	Angola	4
3	Argentina	1
4	Armenia	39
5	Australia	33
6	Austria	11
7	Azerbaijan	3
8	Bahrain	313
9	Bangladesh	12
10	Belarus	2
11	Belgium	10
12	Bhutan	61
13	Brunei Darussalam	1
14	Canada	23
15	Chile	1
16	China	174
17	Congo	9
18	Côte d'Ivoire	6
19	Cuba	1
20	Cyprus	30
21	Czech Republic	1
22	Denmark	1
23	Egypt	2
24	Ethiopia	4
25	France	41

26	Georgia	29
27	Germany	80
28	Greece	22
29	Guatemala	2
30	Guinea	1
31	Hungary	4
32	Iceland	1
33	Indonesia	23
34	Iran	51
35	Israel	7
36	Italy	154
37	Jamaica	1
38	Japan	3
39	Jordan	12
40	Kenya	1
41	Kuwait	386
42	Kyrgyzstan	3
43	Laos	3
44	Lebanon	6
45	Malawi	1
46	Malaysia	379
47	Maldives	11
48	Malta	2
49	Mauritius	9
50	Mexico	1
51	Mozambique	5
52	Myanmar	24

53	Nepal	1282
54	Nigeria	9
55	North Macedonia	5
56	Oman	176
57	Pakistan	42
58	Philippines	43
59	Poland	5
60	Qatar	588
61	Republic of Ireland	6
62	Republic of Korea	3
63	Russia	20
64	Saudi Arabia	2594
65	Senegal	6
66	Serbia	2
67	Sierra Leone	1
68	Singapore	80
69	Slovenia	1
70	South Africa	8
71	South Sudan	1
72	Sri Lanka	30
73	Tajikistan	1
74	Tanzania	3
75	Thailand	38
76	Togo	2
77	Turkey	1
78	Trinidad and Tobago	2
79	United Arab Emirates	2308

80	Uganda	1
81	United Kingdom	282
82	USA	164
83	Uzbekistan	5
84	Vietnam	4
85	Yemen	1
86	Zimbabwe	2
	Total	9728

S.No	Country	Number of Indian Citizens sentenced to death or life imprisonment during the last ten years
1	Argentina	1
2	Austria	2
3	Bahrain	7
4	Bhutan	4
5	Canada	23
6	China	17
7	Cyprus	1
8	Egypt	1
9	El Salvador	1
10	Ethiopia	2
11	Fiji	1
12	Greece	1
13	Guatemala	1
14	Indonesia	1
15	Italy	1
16	Lebanon	1
17	Malawi	1
18	Mexico	1
19	Qatar	14
20	Saudi Arabia	13
21	Sri Lanka	7
22	Sultanate of Oman	5
23	Thailand	5
24	United Arab Emirates	8
25	USA	4
26	Uzbekistan	1
27	Yemen	1
