

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:330
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
COMPENSATION TO KUWAIT EVACUEES
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indians who were constrained to leave Kuwait during the Kuwait War are yet to get their compensation;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof along with the number of persons yet to get the compensation;
- (c) whether there are persons whose claims have not been settled so far;
- (d) if so, the reasons thereof and the number of such persons; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the settlement of the claims and also release of the compensation amount?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT ON GULF WAR COMPENSATION

(a) to (d) The following table gives the information on the individual claims filed by Indian nationals :

Type of claim	Description	No.of claims Registered	No.of claims approved by UNCC	Success percentage
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Category A	Mental/physical anguish due to sudden departure	105010	102154	97.28
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Category B	Death/serious injuries caused by the War	258	183	70.93
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Category C	Loss of personal property worth less than \$100,000	39435	38953	98.78
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Category D	Loss of personal property worth more than \$100,000	937	475	
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Total : 145640 141765

Notes :

1. A small percentage of A and C claims have been rejected by UNCC as duplicate claims. In case of B claims, some serious injury cases have been rejected due to lack of evidentiary documents.

2. Processing of D claims is not yet complete. As indicated above, only 475 cases have been resolved. Partial amounts have been received only for 266 claims.

Compensation amount received till date from UNCC is \$690.04 mn or approximately Rs.3036.17 Crores (at present exchange rate).

The factors which may delay payments to the successful claimants are :

- (i) Claimant is not living at the address given to SKC and so cannot be located.
 - (ii) Claimant is deceased and his heirs are not ready with a Succession Certificate, or a probated Will.
 - (iii) Claimants have filed multiple claims. Matter has to be referred to UNCC for deciding on the operative claim. Claimants fail to produce necessary documents as laid down in the guidelines for disbursement of claims procedure.
 - (iv) There is a mismatch in the data supplied by UNCC and the data which is available with SKC and has been given to the Banks.
- (e) All efforts are made by the Special Kuwait Cell of the Ministry of External Affairs in conjunction with the Banks to remove causes of delay in release of payment. Claimants are constantly advised. Exact number of such cases cannot be given as this is changing constantly. The number is in fact decreasing each day.

As for all decisions regarding claims, it is the exclusive responsibility of UNCC to evaluate and scrutinize all claims, decide upon the quantum and timing of compensation, and transfer requisite funds to the respective governments.