

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:268
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
BRINGING BACK INDIANS FROM KURDISTAN
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that nearly 100 people from Andhra Pradesh are stranded in Kurdistan;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring them back to India; and
- (d) the action likely to be taken against those found guilty for the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SH. E AHAMED)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes. 78 Indian nationals, majority of them from Andhra Pradesh, were stranded in Erbil, Kurdistan, where they had been sent to work from Dubai for an Iraqi company called Iraqi Construction Company (ICC) on 10th June, 2006 by different agents. These workers owing to difficult conditions of stay and work expressed the desire to be repatriated. The Indian Mission in Iraq with the help of the concerned Iraqi authorities was able to ameliorate their conditions of stay and arrange for their repatriation. The first batch of 22 left Kurdistan for India via Dubai on 24th June. The remaining 56 left for India via Dubai on 1st July, 2006.

(d) the details of agents involved in their recruitment are being ascertained and action against them will be taken as per the provisions of the Immigration Act, 1983 and the rules made there under by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.