

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:480

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006

SAFETY OF INDIANS IN AFGHANISTAN

Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri ;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether hundreds of engineers, doctors and other workers of Indian origin are working in Afghanistan currently;
- (b) If so, whether security arrangements for these workers are sufficient in that country;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) Whether an Indian engineer was allegedly killed by Taliban Militia recently;
- (e) If so, the details thereof and the number of workers of Indian origin in that country killed during the last three years;
- (f) Whether compensation has been paid by the Government to the families of the victims; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure adequate safety and security of the Indian workers in Afghanistan?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.480 to be answered on 17.5.2006 regarding `Safety of Indians in Afghanistan`

(a) There are approximately 2000 Indian nationals, including some engineers and doctors, working in Afghanistan currently.

(b) & (c) Indians engaged in Government of India aid projects are provided security by the Government of Afghanistan and the Government of India under bilateral arrangements. Those working with international agencies, private companies and the Government of Afghanistan are provided security by their respective employers. Such workers are advised to insist on satisfactory security arrangements from their employers and to also comply with security instructions.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An Indian engineer, Shri K. Suryanarayan was killed by the Taliban on the night of 29 April 2006. During the last three years, four Indian workers have been killed in Afghanistan. In the first incident in November, 2003, Shri Sanjeev Devar working for an Indian company was shot dead by assailants at his house. In the second incident, an official of Border Roads Organisation, Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty was kidnapped and killed on 22 November 2005. Shri K. Bharath Kumar, who was working for a US-based company was killed in a land mine blast on 7 February 2006 along with nationals of two other countries.

(f) Government of India has paid terminal benefits and compensation to the next of kin of the late Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty, a Government of India official from Border Roads Organisation. In the case of Shri K. Suryanarayan, Prime Minister gave a grant of Rs.5.00 lakhs for the education of his children. The Government of Andhra Pradesh also gave a grant of Rs.5.00 lakhs. In respect of the employees of private companies, necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the employing company pays all dues and compensation as per rules.

(h) Government of India is in close touch with the Government of Afghanistan to share our concerns on such incidents and to ensure full security for Indians working in Afghanistan. A Security advisory was issued by the Embassy of India, Kabul to all Indians and their companies working in Afghanistan soon after the killing of the BRO official in November 2005. Additional security personnel have been deployed at the BRO's road project locations. Subsequently, the Embassy has held meetings with representatives of Indian companies to emphasise the need for observing security precautions strictly. All Indians working in Afghanistan are urged to register themselves with the Embassy of India, Kabul. Government of Afghanistan has deployed local police guards at the sites of Indian projects in Afghanistan. In addition, as and when required, additional security is provided for Indian nationals.

Government reviews the security arrangements with concerned Ministries and agencies regularly to ensure the safety of Indian nationals in Afghanistan.

