

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2721

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008

INDIANS STRANDED IN GULF COUNTRIES

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Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indians are stranded in Gulf countries for return to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the countries alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for their early repatriation to India?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c): The Indian Missions in Gulf countries have informed that there is no report of large number of Indians stranded for return to India. However, there are cases reported from time to time regarding stay of Indian nationals having become illegal for violation of local rules and regulations, non-possession of valid visas/resident permits etc.

Governments in Gulf countries have declared Amnesty Schemes from time to time to permit such foreign nationals to either regularize their stay or leave the country without penalty, during the operation of the scheme.

Indian Mission officials visit the deportation centers to ascertain and ensure welfare of the deportees. Assistance is also provided for regularization of the stay in deserving cases. The missions also issue emergency certificates or necessary travel documents to facilitate repatriation.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Civil Aviation and State Governments, closely monitors such deportation of the Indian workers.