

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:33

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EGYPT ARAB COUNTRIES

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent political developments in Egypt and other Arab countries;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether thousands of Indians residing in these countries have been affected as a result thereof;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of Indians evacuated from these countries and the financial and other assistance rendered to them; and
- (e) the number of Indians still residing in such countries and the measures being taken by the Government to ensure their safety and security?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) & (b) Government are aware of the recent political developments in Egypt and other Arab countries particularly in Tunisia, Algeria, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Libya. On developments in Egypt, Government conveyed its position and reaction on a number of occasions.

As President Mubarak stepped down, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister said on 11 February 2011: "We welcome the decision of President Mubarak to step down in deference to the wishes of the people of Egypt. We also welcome the commitment of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to ensure a peaceful transition of power in a time bound manner to establish an open and democratic framework of governance. We are proud of our traditionally close relations with the people of Egypt and wish them peace, stability and prosperity."

(c) to (e) Our Missions in these countries are in constant contact with Indians residing there for their safety and security. As far as Egypt is concerned, there are about 3600 Indians out of which about 2200 based in Cairo. The Indian Mission in Cairo has taken measures for their safety and security. Upon request of the Indian community in Egypt to the Indian Mission in Cairo, three special flights were arranged by Air India, which carried around 670 Indians from Cairo to Mumbai. This was not 'evacuation' and Government only facilitated arrangement of the special flights of Air India to Cairo which brought back Indians desirous of returning to India. On 03 February 2011, Government also issued an advisory on travel of journalists to Egypt.

Government are closely monitoring the situation in these countries, particularly with regard to the safety and security of the Indian community.