

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) the total number of Indians and People of Indian Origin who are living in various countries, country-wise;
- (b) the type of assistance/help that is being rendered to Indians living in foreign countries by Indian Embassies; and
- (c) the details of the assistance rendered/proposed to be rendered to the Indian nationals in foreign countries during the last three years and in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) The estimated number of Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin residing in various countries as per information compiled through Indian Missions is at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) Indian Mission overseas render consular services to overseas Indians as per the consular manual. Such services are varied in nature and given on case to case basis. Assistance by missions inter alia includes visits to Indian nationals in foreign jails, verification of citizenship, providing Emergency Certificates, taking up issues related to welfare of workers etc.

In addition, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has established the Indian Community Welfare Fund which is now operational in 42 countries which gives the following services:

- (i) Boarding and lodging for distressed overseas Indian workers in household/domestic sectors and unskilled labourers;
- (ii) Extending emergency medical care to overseas Indians in need;
- (iii) Providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in need;
- (iv) Providing initial legal assistance to overseas Indians in deserving cases.
- (v) Expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

As per information available, the details of number of beneficiaries and the kind of assistance provided under the Scheme as on November 2010 is given at Annexure-II.

Such assistance will continue to be provided in future.