

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:297  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2011  
SECURITY OF INDIANS IN ARAB COUNTRIES  
Antony Shri Anto;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has made any arrangements for the evacuation and rehabilitation of Indians stranded in Arab countries, especially in Libya;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of Indians who have been brought back from such countries to India, country-wise;
- (c) whether any plan has been formulated for the livelihood of the overseas people on their return to the country as well as the safety of their property left by them in the concerned Arabian country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the security of Indians living in such countries?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.297 REGARDING "SECURITY OF INDIANS IN ARAB COUNTRIES" FOR ANSWER ON 16.03.2011

In view of the disturbed conditions in some of the Arab countries, the safety and security of Indian nationals residing in these countries is Government's foremost priority. Taking into account the deteriorating situation in Libya, the Government took the decision to relocate Indian nationals out of Libya and assist in their return to India. In this regard, Government made comprehensive arrangements for their evacuation. Government facilitated departures of all Indian nationals desirous of leaving Libya and brought back about 16,200 Indian nationals safely to India by March 12, 2011.

Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs took special care to facilitate the returning Indians at the Delhi and Mumbai airports.

During the political protests in Egypt, three special flights were arranged by Air India which was upon request of the Indian community. These flights carried around 670 Indians from Cairo to Mumbai. This was not evacuation and government only facilitated arrangement of the special flights of the Air India to Cairo which brought back Indians desirous of returning to India.

Despite considerable logistical challenges the Government had put in place a well coordinated "Operation Safe Homecoming" to bring home our nationals from Libya in the quickest and safest manner possible. Government continues to closely monitor the situation in other Arab countries and take necessary steps for the safety and security of Indian nationals residing in these countries. Our Mission in Tripoli will take up the matter with the Libyan authorities for the safety of the properties and assets left behind by Indian nationals.

At present there is no rehabilitation scheme in operation in the Government of India for the emigrant Indian workers returning to the country. However, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has proposed a scheme called Pension and Life Insurance Fund (PLIF) for the overseas Indian workers having Emigration Check Required Passport who have emigrated overseas on employment / contract visa. The scheme aims to accumulate savings for facilitating their resettlement on their return and also provide pension and life insurance coverage in their old age. The proposal is under consultation with the other Ministries before finally taking shape for the necessary approval of the Cabinet.

However, among the State Governments, the State Government of Kerala's Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs Department (NORKA) has launched various schemes in order to provide social security cover to millions of NRKs. These are Pravasi Identity Card and Karunyam, Swanthwana.