

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1783

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011

**EVACUATION OF INDIANS**

Chauhan Shri Dara Singh; Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal; Jeyadural Shri S. R.; Ramasubbu Shri S.; Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has appealed to the Indian citizens in Yemen to leave the country as soon as possible;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of persons of Indian origin evacuated from different countries in Middle-East and North Africa on account of unrest in these countries, country-wise;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to evacuate/protect the remaining persons living in these countries;
- (e) whether the Government has provided/proposes to provide any financial help/rehabilitation package, to the persons returning from these countries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) 698 Indian nationals have so far been evacuated from Yemen in view of civil disturbances during last six months. Due to the turmoil in Egypt during January-February, 2011, Air India arranged three special flights, on 'no profit' basis, from Cairo to Delhi for Indian citizens living in Egypt and stranded Indian tourists who wanted to leave Egypt but were unable to find booking in available commercial flights. Around 670 Indians availed of these special Air India flights to return to India. As the situation deteriorated in Libya, more than 16,200 Indian nationals desirous of returning to India were evacuated from Libya by all means, i.e. by air, sea, and land.

(d) The Embassy of India, Sana'a (Yemen) is in the process of obtaining exit visas for those who are staying without proper documentation in Yemen. A couple of thousand Indian nationals have chosen to stay back in Yemen despite Government of India's advisory as they have been assured of their safety by their Yemeni and non-Yemeni employers. With the situation in Egypt improving many of the evacuated Indians have since returned. As far as Libya is concerned, there are about 2,000 Indians who still remain there. Our Mission in Tripoli presently manned by local staff is in regular touch with them.

(e) & (f) The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to examine issues relating to repatriation, relief and rehabilitation of Indian nationals affected by the recent developments in West Asia, Gulf and North Africa regions. State Governments concerned were also requested to assist them and provide relief where necessary.