

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2590
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
IMPACT OF TURMOIL IN GULF
Ramshankar Dr.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment on the impact of the turmoil in the gulf countries on India's interests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government for the safety of life and property of Indian nationals in the gulf countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes.

(b) India enjoys close relations with the countries of the Gulf region. About 6 million Indians live and work in the Gulf region which is one of our largest trading partners and an important source of oil and gas. There has been no visible impact of recent developments in the region on our bilateral trade including import of oil.

(c) Government of India is closely monitoring the situation in the Gulf region. Ministry of External Affairs is in close contact with governments through our Missions there to ensure the safety and well being of Indian nationals. Ministry of External Affairs had issued travel advisories for our nationals in Bahrain to avoid non-essential travel and to those in Yemen to leave the country. 698 Indian nationals have so far been evacuated from Yemen in view of civil disturbances during last six months. Missions are in close touch with the Indian community through Indian Associations advising them from time to time. 24/7 helplines are also available to our nationals. 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 have also been requested to assist the returnees and provide relief where necessary.