

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1730
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011
WELFARE FUND FOR INDIANS
Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has set aside a separate fund for the welfare of Indians abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the fund meant for that purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. For safeguarding the welfare and protection especially of Indian workers going abroad, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up the `Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)` and is operationalised in the Indian Missions in all the Countries with effect from 24.03.2011. The fund aims to provide on-site emergency assistance for the Overseas Indian Citizens who are in distress. The welfare services provided by the ICWF includes boarding and lodging for distressed household / domestic workers and unskilled labourers, emergency medical care to the overseas Indians in need, providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in distress, providing initial legal assistance to the overseas Indians in deserving cases and incurring expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indians in cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

(c) & (d): At present there is no such proposal to increase the fund meant for that purpose as it is felt that the existing fund being operated by Indian Missions abroad are sufficient for the welfare of the overseas Indians.