

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1227

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012

INDIAN MISSION IN SYRIA

Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad;Ramkishun Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to trim down its Mission in Syria and other disturbed countries across the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to evacuate families of Indian Embassy personnel posted in such disturbed countries particularly from Syria;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps being taken to ensure safety of personnel and their families deployed in such missions abroad?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The Government regularly monitors security related developments in places where Indian Missions/Posts are located. In view of the recent developments in Syria, the Indian Ambassador in Damascus has been advised to take all steps necessary for ensuring the safety and security of our personnel, including trimming down of the personnel strength if so required.
- (c) & (d) The Indian Mission in Syria has also been authorized to evacuate the members of the families of the India- based personnel in the Mission. Most of the families have in fact already returned to India.
- (e) Depending upon the evolving security scenario anywhere, appropriate decisions are taken from time to time with regard to the optimal personnel strength; declaring a Mission non-family; need for evacuation; desirability of continued operations etc. in respect of a particular Mission/Post abroad.