

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:567

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

MONITORING WELFARE MEASURES FOR INDIANS ABROAD

Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the welfare and provisions of financial assistance for Indian citizens residing abroad are being monitored;
- (b) if so, the discrepancies observed therein during the last three years;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the discrepancies; and
- (d) the extent to which these steps have become successful?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) The 'Indian Community Welfare Fund' (ICWF) meets contingent expenditure for Overseas Indian Citizens who are in distress. The ICWF is used for providing relief such as: boarding and lodging for distressed Overseas Indian workers; emergency medical care; providing initial legal assistance in deserving cases; airlifting the mortal remains to India, or meeting expenses of local cremation/burial of deceased Overseas Indians, in cases where the sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost; payment of small fines/ penalties for the release of Indian nationals in jail/ detention centre; providing support to local Overseas Indian associations to establish Overseas Indian Community Centres in countries that have population of Overseas Indians exceeding 1,00,000, etc.

Besides, legal assistance is provided to needy Indian women in distress, who have been deserted by their overseas Indian/foreigner husbands.

- (b) No case of any discrepancy as such has come to the notice of this Ministry.
- (c) Question does not arise.
- (d) Over Rs.37 Crore has been spent to benefit over 28,000 Overseas Indians so far.