

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:963

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

FINANCIAL HELP TO INDIANS INJURED ABROAD

Balram Shri P.;Raghavan Shri M. K.;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

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

- (a) whether a large number of Indians are murdered or are committing suicide in foreign countries ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise ;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study on the causes of increasing number of such incidents ;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the details of assistance including financial provided by the Government to the Indian workers/students and their families in the event of their accident/death abroad;
- (f) whether there has been inordinate delay in bringing dead bodies of workers to India from abroad;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor;and
- (h) the steps taken in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise

(c): No, Sir. There is no report that the number of such incidents is increasing.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): In the case of death/accident of Indian workers/students, Indian Missions/Posts abroad render all possible assistance, as per the procedures and guidelines of the Consular Manual, including informing about the death to the next of kin, registration of death, providing consular services and related facilities in coordination with the concerned employer/ sponsor and the local authorities/ agencies for transportation of the dead body to India or for local cremation/burial – as per the wishes of the family of the deceased.

Indian Missions/Posts also take up matter with local foreign office for thorough investigation of cases of un-natural deaths. Local authorities are approached for early autopsy/police reports / clearance. Requests for expeditious settlement of legal dues/ compensation are also taken up with the local concerned authorities.

The Ministry has recently set up Indian Community welfare Fund (ICWF) in the Indian Missions in 17 Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) Countries and Maldives to provide on-site welfare activities for Overseas Indian Citizens who are in distress. ICWF is aimed at providing on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases, among other things, for expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

(f) to (h): There is some delay due to the procedural requirements as per the law of the country, especially in cases of unnatural death. However, there have been no complaints about any inordinate delay in bringing dead bodies to India.