

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4141
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
SAFETY AND SECURITY OF NRIS
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are feeling unsafe in many countries abroad including Arab countries on account of violence resulting out of political instability in those countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken/being taken to ensure the safety of life and property of NRIs in these countries;
- (c) the details of the arrangements made to bring back the NRIs from the disturbed countries;
- (d) whether any scheme has been prepared to provide proper livelihood to NRIs returning to India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons there for?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Indian Missions and Posts have not reported that Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are feeling unsafe in many countries abroad, including Arab Countries. However, instances of violence resulting from political instability have been reported from countries like South Sudan and Libya. In the event of violence, Indian Missions issue suitable advisory to Indian nationals and provide assistance including safe air passage to stranded Indian workers, using the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

(c): If there are any disturbances abroad, State Governments are tied up to coordinate with the Indian Missions concerned as the Missions request for identification of the Indian Nationals who have no documents with them and approach the Mission for issuance of Emergency Certificates (ECs).

The State Governments are also requested through Nodal Officers nominated for the purpose, for identifying the Nationality of the Indians on priority basis so that action for issue of EC could be initiated without any delay. The concerned Indian Mission issues EC and arranges for air tickets, wherever required, for repatriation of the Indians and the State Governments make arrangements for receiving the incoming Indians at the air port and sending them to their native places.

(d) & (e): Rehabilitation of returnees rests mainly with the State Governments. During review meetings conducted by Hon'ble Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs on 09.04.2013 and 25.06.2013 with Ministers/ representatives of major labour sending States, the States were asked to prepare Schemes for rehabilitating the returnees using State and Central Government schemes as well.