

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1396  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015  
HANDING OVER MORTAL REMAINS OF INDIANS  
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is inordinate delay in handing over of dead bodies of workers who die or are killed abroad to their families;
- (b) if so, the number of workers/imprisoned Indians who died/killed abroad during the last one year, country-wise;
- (c) whether the autopsies were conducted in all such cases along with the case findings thereof;
- (d) the number of such Indians, State-wise whose dead bodies are still lying in mortuaries of foreign countries, country-wise; and
- (e) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to hand over all the dead bodies to the concerned families at the earliest?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) On receipt of written consent from the next of kin of the deceased Indian national, the mortal remains are either locally cremated/buried or transported to India within a week from most of the countries. The local procedures for transportation of mortal remains of foreign workers vary from country to country. In Gulf countries, the normal timeline ranges between 2-4 weeks due to local procedures. The concerned Indian Mission/Post is constantly engaged with the concerned authorities of the host Government to expedite every step of the procedure.
- (b) 7086 cases of deaths of workers/imprisoned Indians/other Indian nationals have been reported by Indian Missions/Posts abroad during the last one year. A country-wise list showing the details is attached.
- (c) In all cases of unnatural deaths autopsies are mandatorily carried out as per the laws of the host country.
- (d) Details of persons killed abroad are indicated in list attached (Annexure 'A'). State-wise details, wherever available, are indicated.
- (e) As soon as the information about the death of an Indian national comes to the knowledge of the concerned Indian Mission/Post abroad, they take proactive action by seeking a report from the local Foreign Office and other concerned authorities regarding the cause of the death of the Indian national. Our Missions/Posts abroad also inform the next of kin of the deceased Indian national, and facilitate the transportation to India or local burial of mortal remains in accordance with the wishes of the family of the deceased. The relevant documents related to the deceased are attested and other assistance is provided on priority basis when required, including after office hours and on holidays. A new Consular Grievances Monitoring System named MADAD has been set up recently, which accords maximum priority to the follow up of mortal remains cases.