

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:410

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015

INDIANS IN YEMEN

Rajesh Shri M. B.;Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several Indians have been trapped in the strife torn country of Yemen and if so, the details thereof along with the assistance provided to these Indians;
- (b) whether the Government has mooted a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to evacuate the stranded Indians and if so, the number of Indians who have been safely evacuated from Yemen along with the number still trapped in the conflict zone, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken in consultation with the Yemeni Government to ensure the safety and security of Indians in that country and their safe evacuation;
- (d) whether any advisory has been issued to Indians to leave that country under the prevailing situation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number and details of help desks opened at the Indian embassy in Yemen and India for providing adequate assistance in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 410 REGARDING "INDIANS IN YEMEN" TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.04.2015

(a) Yes, several Indians got trapped in the strife-torn country of Yemen recently. As per estimates from our Embassy in Sana'a, over 4,000 Indians were working in different cities in Yemen before the onset of airstrikes by a coalition of Arab countries beginning 26 March.

The GOI took all necessary and immediate steps to ensure safe and early evacuation of our nationals stranded in Yemen. Necessary logistical arrangements for their evacuation were put in place in coordination with the Ministries of Home, Defence and Civil Aviation. Adequate capacity for evacuation was ensured through deployment of 5 Indian naval ships- 3 warships-INS Sumitra, INS Mumbai and INS Tarkash and 2 Indian vessels Kavaratti and Coral. 7 aircraft- 3 Indian Air Force C-17 Globemasters and 4 Air India commercial aircraft were used to ferry the evacuees from Sana'a to Djibouti and onward to destinations in India.

(b) Yes, there is an inter-ministerial "Standing Group for Repatriation of Indian nationals from Abroad" in place. The Group includes relevant GOI Ministries and departments to plan, coordinate and implement evacuation plans in contingency situations.

As of 18 April, 4,741 Indians have been assisted in their return to India. All Indian nationals willing to return to India are being assisted in evacuation. A list indicating state-wise details of the returnees as on 18 April is enclosed at Annexure A.

(c) The evacuation efforts were carried out with active cooperation from the local Yemeni authorities and other governments in the region.

(d) Yes, in anticipation of a possible deterioration of the security environment in Yemen, the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian embassy in Sana'a issued three advisories on 21 January, 19 March and 25 March 2015 urging Indians there to leave Yemen voluntarily by available commercial means as it was safe to do so at that time.

(e) A control room with 24-hour help-lines was established in the Ministry of External Affairs from 26 March to assist Indian nationals in Yemen and their concerned family members in India. Similar 24-hour help-lines were established in the Indian embassy in Sana'a and in the Indian control room in Djibouti