

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2010
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up a crisis management team to monitor the situation in Iraq and assist Indian nationals in the affected areas and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the extent to which the crisis management team has succeeded in providing safe passage to Indians working in Iraq;
- (c) whether the Government has provided any military assistance to Iraq to face the current crisis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) There is a Standing Group (SG) set up by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to address all issues relating to the repatriation of Indian nationals abroad in cases of emergency/ other local developments. The SG is chaired by the Foreign Secretary (or the Secretary concerned in the Ministry of External Affairs). The other members of the SG are Defence Secretary, Finance Secretary, Home Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Secretary, Ministry of Shipping.
- (b) The SG has closely monitored the security situation in Iraq and has taken all necessary steps to ensure the safe return of Indians from Iraq. Embassy of India in Baghdad is in close and regular contact with the authorities in the Iraqi Government and Iraqi Red Crescent Society for safe return of our nationals from Iraq. Our Embassy has been also providing all necessary assistance to Indian nationals, including through provision of travel documents, air tickets and arrangement of special flights. Since the onset of the crisis, over 3,500 Indian nationals have been provided assistance for travelling back to India. This includes air tickets to over 2,500 Indian nationals.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.