

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1608
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015
Mortal Remains of Persons
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

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

- (a) the average number of days taken for completion of procedures in case of natural and unnatural death to bring back the mortal remains of persons of Indian origin, who die abroad and details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government, in consultation with various countries, proposes to simplify the said procedure and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to appoint one nodal office to coordinate with the family members of those who have lost a relative abroad; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether such nodal office will also cover all expenses of bringing back the mortal remains of the deceased?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ

(a): It varies between 1-3 working days in case of natural death and 1-7 working days in case of unnatural death in most countries, if documentation is complete, except in Jordan and Lebanon, where it varies between 10-21 working days. In Saudi Arabia, dispatch of mortal remains takes 4-6 weeks in cases of natural death, and 16 weeks, or even more, if the death occurs due to unnatural reason, like road traffic accident, industrial mishap and murder. The mortal remains are released only after the investigations are completed.

(b): The procedure depends on local laws of the host countries.

The Indian Missions facilitate completion of paperwork in 1-2 days. They also help the affected persons follow up with local authorities for completion of local formalities.

(c) & (d): The Missions directly coordinate with the family members, under the overall guidance of the Ministries of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs.

-

The Indian Community Welfare Fund can be used to bring to India the dead body of a deceased Indian citizen from the foreign country. The family or friends of the deceased Indian national may request such assistance from the concerned Indian Mission/ Post to cover expenditure on incidentals; air lifting mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian where sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.