

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5359
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2018

REPATRIATION OF INDIAN WORKERS

5359. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has facilitated repatriation of nearly 90,000 Indians working in 54 countries and assisted 80,000 Indians who were caught in dangerous situations during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the ecosystem of administrative organization has been strengthened to address issues such as loss of passport and need for legal advice, medical emergency, shelter and transportation and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Indian Embassies have been directed to be proactive to address such problems quickly; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. Today, all Indians residing in any corner of the world are confident that in case of a crisis, their Government will provide them with a safe passage to the country. More than 90,000 Indians stranded abroad have been safely brought back since 2014. Around 22,000 of them have been extended air passages through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

The institutional framework for support and welfare of Indian nationals abroad stands considerably strengthened. The MADAD portal, e-Migrate, ICWF and Indian Worker Resource Centres are among the important mechanisms to assist Indian nationals. All Indian Missions/ Posts also actively engage through social media platforms. External Affairs Minister herself receives large number of requests on her Twitter handle which are sent immediately to the concerned Indian Missions and Posts for necessary action. The Government has also launched an awareness campaign 'Surakshit Jaaye, Prasikshit Jaaye' towards ensuring that Indian workers should migrate safely with an enhanced skill set.

Indian Missions and Posts abroad are readily accessible to all Indian citizens within their jurisdiction and maintain close contact with the Indian community. There is a designated nodal officer in each Mission and Post to

deal with emergency situations. In key Missions and Posts, a 24x7 Helpline has been established. A dedicated Community Welfare Wing has also been established in Missions and Posts where there is sizeable Indian community.

Indian nationals residing abroad are advised to register with the nearest Indian Mission or Post. In addition, Ministry issues instructions from time to time to its Missions and Posts abroad to address the challenges faced by the resident Indian community with a proactive approach.
