

Indians Stranded In Gulf Countries

*88. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN
YADAV:
SHRI RAMDAS SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals who have been evacuated by air and sea from the Gulf countries since the outbreak of the Gulf war;

(b) the number of Indian nationals including the nurses and construction workers who are still stranded in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, country-wise break-up thereof;

(c) the number of those Indians who have taken shelter in other countries viz. Jordan, Iran and Saudi Arabia;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to ensure their safety;

(e) whether adequate arrangements to evacuate these stranded Indians have been made;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the expenditure incurred in the evacuation process by the Government so far; and

(h) whether any assistance from international organisations was received for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) 1440 Indians have been repatriated since the outbreak of the Gulf war on 17th January, 1991. In addition, approximately 3,000 are estimated to have left Saudi Arabia for India after that date.

(b) and (c). There are about 130 stranded Indians in Iraq and between 5000-6000 in

Kuwait. Following is the number of Indians awaiting repatriation in other countries:

Saudi Arabia	:	10
Jordan	:	NIL
Iran	:	58

(d) In cooperation with the Governments of the countries of their accreditation, our Embassies in the Gulf region are providing all possible assistance to Indian nationals to ensure their safety.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. Our Embassies in the Gulf region are in touch with the local governments and also with the concerned international organisations including the International Organisation of Migration (IOM)

(g) The Government of India is estimated to have spent approximately Rs. 300 crores on the repatriation of Indian nationals so far.

(h) International Organisation of Migration (IOM) has rendered assistance towards repatriation of Indian nationals from Jordan (5 flights) and Iran (one flight).

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections In Almora District

*89. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many people are on the waiting list for telephone connections in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the persons on the waiting list are likely to be provided telephone connections?