

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3704
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2022**

EVACUATION OF INDIAN CITIZENS

**3704. SHRI ADHIKARI DEEPAK(DEV):
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:
SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:
SHRI RITESH PANDEY :
SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP :
SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR(ALIAS) VIJAY VASANTH :
SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR:
DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:
SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:
SHRI BHOLANATH(B. P. SAROJ):
SHRI B.B. PATIL:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRIMATI NUSRAT JAHAN RUHI:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
DR. TALARI RANGAIAH:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:
SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:
SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH :
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRIMATI MALA ROY:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:
SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBAJIRAO MANE:**

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI GAUTAM GAMBHIR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indians particularly students stranded in Ukraine due to Russia Ukraine war are facing hardships, if so, the details thereof indicating the number of Indians staying and students studying along with those injured/killed therein ;**
- (b) whether evacuation was delayed after the issue of advisory due to absence of state owned airlines, if so, the details thereof indicating the number of flights operated under Operation Ganga since 15th February, 2022 persons rescued/evacuated till date and those still stranded, State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has provided any assistance to displaced and deceased Indians, if so, the details thereof including steps taken for completion of medical education in Indian medical colleges;**
- (d) the details of facilities being provided by Indian Embassy in Ukraine along with the complaints received against its officials for not helping students to get essential items like food/water;**
- (e) whether the Government has any information regarding price hike/unavailability of air tickets by any Indian airlines, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the steps including diplomatic parleys taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals and defuse the war situations?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI]**

(a) Around 22500 Indian nationals, mostly students, have returned from Ukraine to India safely since 1 February 2022 till date. Our Embassy in Ukraine continues to be in touch with the remaining Indian nationals in Ukraine who have registered with the Embassy. It is estimated that there may be around 50 Indian nationals still in Ukraine, including 15-20 who may be willing to return to India. The Embassy is facilitating their return where possible.

One Indian national, Harjot Singh, suffered bullet injuries but was evacuated safely to India under medical supervision.

Naveen Shekarappa Gyanagaudar, a final year medical student of Kharkiv Medical University, unfortunately lost his life on 2 March 2022.

(b) In view of the continued build-up of tensions in February, the Embassy of India in Kyiv issued an advisory on 15 February, 2022 advising Indian nationals in Ukraine, whose stay is not essential, to leave the country temporarily. Further advisories were also given on 20 February and 22 February pressing students to leave Ukraine. Air-bubble restrictions then in force were immediately lifted in consultation with Ukrainian side to increase the number of direct flights. As a result, around 4000 Indian nationals departed from Ukraine by direct and indirect flights till 23 February 2022.

Following the closure of airspace of Ukraine due to the outbreak of conflict on 24 February 2022, Government of India facilitated the evacuation of around 18500 Indian nationals after 24 February till date. Under Operation Ganga, 90 flights, of which 76 were commercial airlines and 14 IAF flights were operated till date at GOI cost.

(c) Government provided all possible assistance in terms of shelter, food, medical attention where required, to displaced Indians who crossed over to the western neighbours of Ukraine. They were eventually evacuated through flights operated under Operation Ganga.

The Indian Embassy in Ukraine facilitated the repatriation of mortal remains of 2 deceased Indians back to their home in India.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Education are considering various aspects of the completion of medical education of Indian students who have returned from Ukraine.

(d) Our Embassy in Ukraine has been working incessantly to contact Indian nationals, arranging and facilitating transport, coordinating with local authorities, providing food etc. Throughout the evacuation exercise, our Embassy was in constant touch with the Ukrainian authorities.

(e) Under Operation Ganga, 90 flights, of which 76 were commercial airlines and 14 IAF flights were operated till date at GOI cost.

(f) Prime Minister spoke to the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine on multiple occasions. He specifically took up the issue of safe evacuation of Indian nationals, especially from Kharkiv and Sumy. Prime Minister also spoke to the Prime Ministers of Romania, Slovak Republic and Hungary and the President of Poland to seek their support for facilitation of entry of Indian

nationals to their countries. External Affairs Minister was also been in constant touch with his counterparts from Russia and Ukraine for similar reasons. Foreign Secretary maintained contact with Ambassadors of Russia and Ukraine in New Delhi, while Ambassadors in Kyiv and Moscow followed up in their respective capitals.
