

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1285
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14th March 2022)**

OPERATION OF FLIGHTS UNDER AIR-BUBBLE

1285. SHRI BRIJLAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government proposes to start flights to various countries of the world including Ukraine by implementing the bio-bubble protocol, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has started any special flights to bring back our citizens in view of current situation in Ukraine, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) and (b) Scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India were suspended w.e.f 22.03.2020 in view of Covid-19 pandemic. However, to facilitate international travel by passengers, the Government formalized air bubble arrangements with 37 countries including Ukraine as on 07.03.2022. Flights under Vande Bharat Mission (including air bubble arrangements) remain operational.

The Government has launched Operation Ganga to bring back Indian citizens from Ukraine. Due to closure of the Ukrainian airspace, many citizens had to be evacuated via neighbouring countries. Between 22.02.2022 and 08.03.2022 more than 18,000 Indians have been evacuated from Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Poland and Slovakia through the evacuation flights operated by the Indian carriers and IAF aircrafts.
