

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1815
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY RUSSIA AND UKRAINE IN EVACUATION PROCESS

†1815. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

SHRI BRIJLAL :

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students and passengers who have been brought to India in the recent past due to the situation of tension between Russia and Ukraine;
- (b) whether any additional flights have been operated by Government in such a situation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is in touch with Government of Russia and Ukraine, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of assistance given by Russia and Ukraine to Indians?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI]

(a) Around 22,500 Indian nationals, mostly students have returned to India from 1 February-11 March, 2022.

(b) From February 26 - March 10, 2022, 90 evacuation flights were operated as part of Operation Ganga at Government of India cost including 14 Indian Air Force flights.

(c) Breakup of these 90 flights is as follows:

Romania: 36 Flights (11 Air India, 11 IndiGo, 3 SpiceJet, 6 Indian Air Force, 4 Air India Express and 1 Air Asia)

Hungary: 31 Flights (11 IndiGo, 6 Go Air, 5 Air India Express, 3 Indian Air Force, 2 Air India, 2 Air Asia and 2 Spice Jet)

Poland: 17 Flights (11 IndiGo, 4 Indian Air Force and 2 Air India)

Slovakia: 6 Flights (1 Indian Air Force, 4 SpiceJet, 1 Indigo)

(d) Government is in touch with Ukraine and Russia at various levels. Prime Minister spoke to Ukrainian President twice and Russian President thrice since the beginning of the

conflict on 24 February. External Affairs Minister also spoke to Foreign Ministers of Ukraine and Russia. Foreign Secretary met Ambassadors of Ukraine and Russia in New Delhi on multiple occasions. Our Ambassadors to Ukraine and Russia have been in regular touch with the concerned authorities in Ukraine and Russia, respectively.

(e) The Ukrainian authorities assisted in movement of Indian nationals from eastern parts of Ukraine to western parts of the country, including arrangement of special trains from Kharkiv to Lviv and from Lviv to the Polish side for the students from Sumy. The declaration of ceasefire by Russia and Ukraine in the Sumy and Kharkiv region helped in the safe evacuation of Indian students from these areas.
