

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1817
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

LOSS OF JOBS FOR INDIANS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1817. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether Government has the data regarding the number of Indians brought back from foreign countries under Vande Bharat Mission during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plans/proposals to support such persons who returned to India due to loss of their jobs abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (d) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) During the global Covid-19 pandemic, the Government of India launched the 'Vande Bharat' Mission to repatriate Indian nationals and to facilitate the travel of passengers between India and other parts of the world. As on 06 March 2022, 2.97 crore passengers (in-bound and out-bound) have been facilitated in the flights operated under the Vande Bharat Mission and Air Bubble arrangements. The state-wise distribution of such passengers available as on 31 October 2021 is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d) Government of India launched the SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) initiative for citizens returning under the Vande Bharat Mission at the beginning of the pandemic. SWADES is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs which aims to create a database of returning citizens based on their skill sets and experience.

As part of the SWADES initiative, the returning citizens were requested to fill an online SWADES Skills Card at <http://www.nsdindia.org/swades/>. A call centre/SMS outreach was also conducted for citizens who arrived in India and did not complete SWADES registration. The information collected via the skills card was used to facilitate placement opportunities by integrating with Skill India's ASEEM (Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping) portal.

ANNEXURE-I

State-wise distribution of passengers travelled through Vande Bharat Mission and Air Bubble Arrangements as on 31st October 2021

States / UTs	From 01.04.2020 to 31.10.2021		
	Outbound	Inbound	Total
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13	13	26
ANDHRA PRADESH	1922	94244	96166
ASSAM	35	349	384
BIHAR	1162	11914	13076
CHANDIGARH	4138	11617	15755
DELHI	2943325	2760000	5703325
GOA	28752	36798	65550
GUJARAT	183053	210417	393470
KARNATAKA	558673	593321	1151994
KERALA	2067447	2399688	4467135
MAHARASHTRA	1298689	1009619	2308308
MANIPUR	12	19	31
MADHYA PRADESH	1504	1393	2897
ODISHA	723	5425	6148
PUNJAB	169878	151064	320942
RAJASTHAN	71123	111370	182493
TELANGANA	496173	638225	1134398
TAMIL NADU	670368	905845	1576213
UTTAR PRADESH	185601	487682	673283
WEST BENGAL	114743	133567	248310
Grand Total	8797334	9562570	18359904
