

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 63**  
ANSWERED ON- 02/02/2023

**SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR INDIAN EXPATRIATES STRANDED ABROAD**

63. DR. SASMIT PATRA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the details of the support system set-up by the Ministry for facilitating and helping the Indian expatriates stranded abroad due to various reasons;

(b) the total number of Indian expatriates repatriated to India with the efforts of the Ministry;

(c) the number of such expatriates who are from Odisha and the reasons for their being stranded abroad; and

(d) the manner in which those expatriates from Odisha repatriated back safely?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to d) The Government has set up several mechanisms to reach out and to facilitate repatriation of the stranded Indians abroad. The e-Migrate web portal, MADAD portal, Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayata Kendras, 24x7 Helplines, Open Houses at Indian Missions and Posts, etc. are some of such important mechanisms.

The Indian Community Welfare Fund has been established in Indian Missions/Posts abroad for providing assistance to stranded Indians, such as, boarding and lodging facilities, emergency medical care, legal assistance and air passage for repatriation to India on means tested basis.

As per data provided by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), approximately 1.60 crores people were repatriated to India through special flights and ships to India including Vande Bharat Mission and flights operated under Air Bubble agreements during the pandemic. Out of these, 5,425 people were from Odisha.

The reasons for repatriation from various countries are attributed to inadequate basic amenities, non-payment of salary, denial of emergency leave by the employer, and other employment related issues, forceful retention of passports by the employer, long working hours, violation of visa norms, involvement in minor crimes, illness etc. The Covid pandemic, war and internal disturbances had also contributed to repatriation of Indians from abroad.

The repatriation of stranded Indians, including from Odisha, were arranged with financial assistance from the Indian Community Welfare Fund. Besides, Government of India had arranged repatriation of stranded Indians from abroad by air, sea and surface routes, under the 'Vande Bharat Mission' and 'Operation Ganga' during the Covid 19 pandemic and conflicts in Ukraine.

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