

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 71
ANSWERED ON- 02/02/2023

DETENTION OF INDIANS ABROAD

71. SHRI A. A. RAHIM

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

(a) the number of Indians detained abroad due to lack of proper travel documents during the past five years, country-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure the repatriation of such detainees and the number of such detainees that have been repatriated annually over the past five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) The Government comes to know about an Indian national detained for some reason in any country either when informed by the host Government or when a complaint is made or assistance sought by an individual or his/her friends or relatives. Many countries do not share data on foreign nationals detained in their territories citing privacy laws. Even countries, which share information, do not generally provide detailed information about the persons who have been detained. Therefore, specific data about Indians detained/deported/repatriated from foreign countries due to lack of proper travel documents is not available separately.

The Government encourages legal travel and stay of Indian nationals abroad. Whenever any detention of an Indian national for violation of immigration laws is brought to its notice, Indian Missions/Posts abroad seek consular access and visit detention centres/jails where Indian nationals are detained. After confirmation of Indian nationality, any document required to facilitate repatriation, such as, issue of Emergency Certificate, if the Indian nationals do not have valid Indian passports, the same is issued by our Missions/Posts, so that they can be repatriated. Financial assistance is also provided by the concerned Indian Mission/Post through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) on a means-tested basis to the detained Indian nationals for facilitating their early release and repatriation. This includes, if necessary, bearing legal fees, payment of fine and air fare for return to India.
