

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1670
ANSWERED ON- 03/08/2023

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY EMBASSIES TO VISITING INDIANS

1670. SHRI ANIL DESAI

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

- (a) the instructions given to the Indian embassies staff to extend help in case Indian nationals lost their travel documents or have no money for return journey;
- (b) details of such cases with countries where necessary help is extended by Indian embassies during the last three years; and
- (c) whether monetary help is also extended for their return air tickets in case they lost all their money, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) The Government attaches highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indians in foreign countries. Indian Missions/Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor the incidents of Indian nationals facing problems in foreign countries. Robust mechanisms are in place in Missions and Posts abroad for helping Indian nationals in various types of distress situations, including those stuck due to lack of travel documents and tickets. After confirmation of Indian nationality, our Missions/Posts abroad issue Emergency Certificates to Indian nationals, who have lost their passports, to facilitate their return to India. Financial assistance is also provided to Indian nationals who are in distress due to loss of money and Passport during their visit abroad and also to the Indian nationals who are in distress due to loss of work or any other compelling reasons, on a means tested basis.

ICWF 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. Air tickets to 7,692 destitute Indian nationals have been provided from ICWF for their return journey to India from various countries during the last three years.
