

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2139
ANSWERED ON- 21/12/2023

SUPPORT TO INDIAN WOMEN ESTRANGED BY THEIR HUSBANDS ABROAD

2139. MS. DOLA SEN

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

- (a) whether Government has any policy/ framework in place to provide assistance to women estranged by their husbands abroad in terms of legal assistance or repatriating them back;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has data about any such women who have requested for support since 2020; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a to d) The Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to address the issues of abandonment, harassment and other matrimonial disputes faced by Indian women married to overseas Indians. Legal and financial assistance is provided to distressed Indian women deserted/ harassed by their spouses abroad from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), including for repatriation. Missions and Posts abroad provide appropriate guidance and information to the aggrieved Indian women about legal procedures & mechanisms in such cases. To enable the Indian women in distress abroad to register their grievances, the Government has provided various channels like the MADAD portal, calls, walk-ins, e-mails, whatsapp, social media and 24x7 helplines. The Indian Missions and Posts also conduct Walk-in sessions and Open House meetings for the distressed Indian women to address their complaints.

As per information available with the Ministry, 5339 requests have been received by the Ministry (including Missions/ Posts abroad) from estranged Indian women married to overseas Indians for providing support during the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2023. Year- wise number of requests are as under:

YEAR	Number of Complaints received
2020	1165
2021	1318
2022	1669
2023 (From January to October)	1187
