

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-553
ANSWERED ON- 07/12/2023

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN US FROM INDIA

553. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 97000 Indians were held while trying to enter US illegally;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that these numbers have increased five times since 2020;
- (c) whether Government has tried to find out the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps Government has taken to bring back those citizens and prevent such illegal emigration of Indians; and
- (e) whether Government is aware of the US Customs and Border Protection report about unlawfully crossing of Indians into US between October, 2022 and September, 2023?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to e) There have been reports about Indian nationals trying to enter US illegally. However, the number quoted has neither been authenticated nor communicated officially by the concerned US authorities. According to data published by US Customs and Border Protection on their website, the number of illegal Indian immigrants encountered by US authorities in 2023 is 96,917.

The Government is engaged with the US Government to nurture the strong people to people ties between the two countries and facilitate mobility of students and professionals.

State Governments have been requested to help create awareness about safe and legal migration and perils of illegal migration. Both the Central and State Governments have been working to prevent and curb illegal migration including through measures against those involved in alleged illegal migration.

On the request of US Government, after verifying nationality of such illegal migrants, our Embassy/Consulates issue travel documents to enable their return to India. The annual India-US Consular Dialogue is a mechanism through which both countries discuss consular issues of mutual interest including ensuring safe and legal migration.
