

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-587**  
ANSWERED ON- 07/12/2023

**ISRAEL - PALESTINE CONFLICT**

587. DR. AMEE YAJNIK  
SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government has an official position on the ongoing escalation in tensions across the Gaza strip and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has made efforts to reach out to Israel and de-escalate the situation and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has provided/intends to provide humanitarian support to those affected in the region and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of efforts made under Operation Ajay to evacuate Indian citizens from Israel?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) India has strongly condemned the terror attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023 and also the loss of civilian lives in the ongoing Israel– Hamas conflict. We remain concerned at the deteriorating security situation and have called for restraint, de-escalation and emphasized peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. We welcome the humanitarian pauses and the release of hostages. Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister have spoken to several leaders in the region and across the world including the President and Prime Minister of Israel and Palestinian President and also in multilateral fora such as G20, BRICS and Voice of Global South Summit and reiterated the above.

(c) India has provided 70 Tonnes of humanitarian aid including 16.5 Tonnes of medicine and medical supplies in 2 tranches to the people of Palestine on 22 October 2023 and 19 November 2023.

(d) On 11 October 2023, Government of India launched Operation Ajay to facilitate return of Indian citizens from Israel. So far, 1309 Indian nationals have returned to India in six special flights operated under Operation Ajay.

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