

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 117**  
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

**INDIAN WORKERS TRAPPED IN CAMBODIA**

**\*117. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is aware of the increasing number of Indian workers trapped in Cambodia by fraudulent companies and scammers;
- (b) if so, the details of the measures taken by Government to rescue the workers in Cambodia;
- (c) the details of the workers rescued so far; and
- (d) the details of the workers that are still trapped in Cambodia and the plans to ensure their safe rescue?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(DR. SUBRAMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 117 FOR REPLY ON 05.12.2024 REGARDING INDIAN WORKERS TRAPPED IN CAMBODIA ASKED BY SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P.**

(a) to (d): It has come to the notice of the Government instances of dubious firms involved in fake recruitment job offers have lured Indian nationals mostly through social media channels to the South-East Asian countries including Cambodia, and made them to carry out cyber crime and other illegal activities from scam centres operating in these countries. In the last two years, countries in Indochina and South-East Asia including Cambodia have witnessed an increase in online cyber crimes.

The exact number of Indian nationals stuck in Cambodia is not known, as Indian nationals often reach these scam centres in the country on their own volition through fraudulent/unscrupulous recruitment agents/agencies and through illegal channels. They approach the Government or any other authority for rescue when they realise that they were trapped.

The Government accords utmost priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. The Ministry through Indian Missions/Posts abroad takes pro-active measures to rescue Indian nationals trapped in foreign countries, whenever such cases come to the notice of the Ministry. Our Embassy in Cambodia remains vigilant and is actively monitoring the situation. They coordinate the rescue and repatriation of affected Indian nationals with active support of the local Cambodian authorities. The Embassy responds promptly if a case of an Indian national is reported and takes appropriate action for registering the case with the local police, issues travel documents, help them contact their family in India, and coordinate till their rescue and final repatriation to India.

Ministry frequently issues advisories, including on social media platforms and media briefings, about fake job rackets. Such communication has also issued by the Indian Embassy in Cambodia through its websites and social media handles. Complaints against the unregistered agents and the dubious firms luring Indian youth in false recruitment offers through various channels are regularly shared with the respective State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for suitable action. Information about unregistered agents is also uploaded and updated on regular basis on the e-Migrate Portal. Till October 2024, a total of 3,094 illegal agents have been notified on the portal.

To spread awareness on cyber crime, the Central Government has taken steps which, inter-alia, include dissemination of relevant information through SMS, Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), MHA's social media account, radio campaigns, engaged MyGov for publicity in multiple channels, organizing cyber safety and security awareness weeks in association with States/UTs, newspaper advertisement on digital arrest scams, announcements in Delhi Metros on digital arrest, and other modus operandi of cyber crimes.

Our Mission in Cambodia has facilitated rescue and release of 1,167 Indian nationals till date. The year-wise break-up is as below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rescue/Repatriation</b>
2022	44
2023	207
2024 (till date)	916
<b>Total</b>	<b>1167</b>

The Government has established various channels to enable Indian nationals abroad to reach out to the Mission/Post in case they need any assistance or in distress. They can contact the Missions/Posts through email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portal like MADAD, CPGRAMS, and eMigrate, and social media etc. Our Mission in Cambodia holds regular meetings with the Cambodian authorities on rescue and repatriation of Indian nationals from scam centres. The Mission has put in place an emergency contact number, and email so that victims can reach out to the Embassy any time.

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