

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1997
ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2024

INDIAN COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND

1997. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA

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

- (a) Total number of distressed Indian migrant workers who have approached Indian embassies in Gulf countries seeking financial assistance in the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) Whether the Indian Community Welfare Fund has been utilized to support NRIs who have experienced human rights violations and are involved in legal disputes so far; and
- (c) If so, the amount of funds utilized for the above in the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) One of the major welfare schemes aimed at assisting overseas Indians is the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) available to all Indian Missions/Posts through revised ICWF Guidelines of 2017.

Assistance under this scheme is provided to Indian nationals in distress in the 'most deserving cases' on a 'means tested basis'. The revised guidelines cover assistance for providing boarding and lodging for deserving distressed Indian nationals, air passage to stranded overseas Indians; legal assistance to Indian nationals who have committed minor crimes, offences or have been falsely implicated by their employer and put in jails; Indian women abandoned/cheated/abused by their PIO or foreign spouses etc. The scheme also covers financial assistance in transportation of mortal remains of deceased Indian nationals to India from abroad or for local cremation/burial of the deceased; emergency medical care to overseas Indians who are involved in an accident (with serious life threatening injuries) or have life threatening medical conditions or suffers a serious disability.

Details of amount spent on ICWF assistance in Gulf countries and the number of beneficiaries are given in Annexure-I

Annexure-I

Year	Total number of Indian migrant workers who have approached Indian embassies in Gulf countries seeking financial assistance	Amount of funds utilized (Amount in INR)
2021	13244	14,85,97,368
2022	7991	16,33,78,199
2023	10136	25,88,68,587

Year	Number of Indians who have been provided assistance from ICWF for legal disputes	Amount of funds utilized (Amount in INR)
2021	2	82,823
2022	9	4,26,808
2023	6	3,12,048
