

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 153
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

DEPORTATION OF INDIANS FROM THE USA

*153. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any information from the US administration regarding the total number of illegal immigrants holding Indian passports currently in the USA;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the total number of Indian passport holders awaiting deportation from the USA;
- (c) whether Government has initiated any discussions or negotiations with the US administration to prevent the handcuffing, shackling and inhumane treatment of Indian deportees during transit; and
- (d) if so, the details and current status thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 153 FOR REPLY ON 13.03.2025 REGARDING DEPORTATION OF INDIANS FROM THE USA ASKED BY DR. JOHN BRITTAS.

The Government of India is not in receipt of any firm information from the U.S. Administration regarding the total number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. holding Indian passports.

Since January 2025 till date, a total of 388 Indian nationals have been deported to India from the United States after verification of their nationality.

In addition, the U.S. side has recently shared information pertaining to 295 individuals who are in the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with final orders of removal. Concerned agencies of the Government of India are currently verifying the nationality details of these individuals.

The U.S. ICE authorities organize and execute deportations as per the Standard Operating Procedure, effective from November 2012, which provides for use of restraints on deportees. The U.S. side has mentioned that restraints are used to ensure the safety and security of deportation missions on both chartered civilian aircraft as well as military aircraft. While women and minors are generally not shackled, the flight officer in charge of a deportation flight has the final say on the matter.

The Ministry of External Affairs has strongly registered its concerns with U.S. authorities on the treatment meted out to deportees, particularly with respect to use of shackles, especially on women who arrived on the 5th February 2025 deportation flight. The U.S. side has however, confirmed that no women or children were restrained on the deportation flights that landed in India on February 15th and 16th respectively. This has been confirmed and recorded by our agencies after interviewing the deportees on their arrival in India.

Government remains constantly engaged with the US side regarding humane treatment of deportees during such operations.
