

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3100
ANSWERED ON- 27/03/2025

ABANDONED INDIAN WOMEN

3100. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government has information about Indian women whose husbands have left them in India alone and settled abroad after marrying them, especially in States like Punjab, if so, the details thereof during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has taken any action against these individuals who abandon their wives after marriage, especially in cases where the women are left behind in India while their husbands migrate, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there any specific laws or regulations in place to protect Indian women from such exploitation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The data of Indian women whose husbands have left them alone in India and have settled abroad after marrying them are maintained by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, this Ministry maintains the data of NRI women who have allegedly been abandoned by their spouses in foreign land. As per the data collated from Indian Missions/Posts abroad, 1617 complaints have been received from NRI women who have allegedly been abandoned by their spouses in the last five years. This Ministry does not maintain state-wise data of Indian women abandoned by their husbands abroad.

Cases of individuals who abandon their wives and leave them behind in India while they migrate abroad are dealt with by the State Governments/UT Administrations which are competent to tackle such offences under the extant provisions of the law.

Government of India has taken a number of steps to address the issue of abandonment of women, domestic violence, harassment and other matrimonial disputes faced by married NRI women living abroad. This Ministry through its Missions/Posts abroad provide appropriate counselling, guidance and information to the aggrieved Indian women about legal procedures & mechanisms in such cases. The Indian Missions/Posts interact regularly with the members of Indian Communities, Associations, NGOs in the areas of their jurisdiction for dissemination of information regarding these facilities. Walk-in sessions and Open House meetings for the distressed Indians including women, are also conducted to address their grievances. Online consular assistance is provided to distressed Indian women through MADAD, CPGRAMS and social media. Further, Missions and Posts also maintain a 24x7 Helpline for emergency situations. Financial and legal

assistance is provided under the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to distressed NRI women who qualify for such assistance as per the prescribed norms. Assistance through other mechanisms, where applicable, such as through women organisations, NGOs, Indian Associations etc have also been put in place.
