

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3756**  
ANSWERED ON- 03/04/2025

**GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR INDIANS WRONGFULLY CONVICTED ABROAD**

3756. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) the assistance Government provides in securing the release of Indian citizens if they are wrongfully convicted or imprisoned abroad because of the actions of fake agents;
- (b) whether the Ministry intervenes diplomatically to review such cases; and
- (c) whether there are any legal resources or interventions available to help those wrongfully convicted?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Government of India accords utmost priority to the safety, security and wellbeing of Indian nationals abroad. Our Missions/Posts abroad remain vigilant and, on receipt of information about any Indian national in distress, immediately gets in touch with the aggrieved Indian nationals and promptly take up the matter with the the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned Government agencies of the host country like Immigration, Labour Department, Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs and law enforcement agencies, to ascertain the facts of the case and to ensure Indian national's welfare and well being. In addition to extending all possible consular assistance, Mission/Post also assists in providing legal aid, wherever needed. The matter of rescue and repatriation of Indian nationals is also taken up with the host country. Mission/Post also maintains a panel of local lawyers, where Indian community is in sizeable numbers. In addition, such matters are also regularly taken up with respective government through diplomatic channels. Government of India also raises this issue at political level with the host Government from time to time. With the concerted efforts of our Embassies/Consulates, several Indians have been rescued.

The Labour and Manpower Cooperation MOUs/Agreements that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower-related issues are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) and Jordan. Further, to safeguard the specific interests of domestic workers in GCC Countries, agreements on Labour Cooperation for the Domestic Sector have been signed with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait. Based on Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed with the host countries, matters related to welfare and protection of workers, including female, are also taken up during regular meetings of Joint Working Groups with host countries.

The Missions/Posts utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) from time to time to provide financial and legal assistance to Indian national in distress abroad on a means-tested basis. Under ICWF, the major assistance includes Boarding & Lodging, Air Passage to India, Legal Assistance, Emergency Medical Care, Transportation of Mortal Remains to India, and Payment of Small Fines and Penalties. Since the launch of ICWF, a total of 3,53,369 Indian nationals have been assisted till September 2024, with a total outlay of Rs. 683 Crore.

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