

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2170
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2025

DEATHS OF INDIANS IN CANADA

2170. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) the number of Indian citizens died in Canada over the last five years and the causes of these deaths as per official records;
- (b) whether Government maintains city-wise or province-wise data on these deaths and the circumstances surrounding them;
- (c) the number of bodies of deceased Indians that have been successfully brought back to India with embassy assistance; and
- (d) the arrangements provided by the Ministry to support the families of deceased Indian nationals abroad, especially in arranging repatriation?

ANSWER

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

(a to d) As per the information available with the Ministry, a total of **1,203** Indian citizens died in Canada over the five-year period from 2020 to 2024. Most of the deaths were a result of natural causes like old age or medical illness. There were also unnatural deaths due to accidents, violence, suicide, murders etc. Year-wise details are placed below.

Year	No. of deaths
2020	120
2021	160
2022	198
2023	336
2024	389

During the period 2020-2024, the mortal remains / ashes of a total of **757** deceased Indians have been successfully brought back from Canada to India with MEA assistance.

Government of India attaches high priority to addressing and resolving the issues pertaining to transportation of mortal remains of Indian nationals. The Ministry has a well-established mechanism / SOPs to coordinate with all Missions / Posts abroad to assist Indian nationals abroad in distress including in cases of deaths, local cremation / burial or transportation of mortal remains to their hometowns in India and settlement of insurance / compensation claims.

As soon as our Mission/Post receives information about the death of an Indian citizen, they immediately contact the kin of the deceased Indian national, as well as the local authorities to complete the necessary formalities and facilitate the transportation or local burial/cremation of the mortal remains, in accordance with the wishes of the kin and local regulations.

The process of transportation of mortal remains to India involves various steps, most of which are to be undertaken by the local authorities in the country concerned. These steps differ from country to country and therefore there is no fixed time frame for eventual transportation. Generally, the transportation of mortal remains is quicker in cases of natural deaths compared to unnatural deaths, due to the differing procedures involved in various countries for investigating the cause of death in case of an unnatural death.

In order to expedite the repatriation of mortal remains to India, Missions/Posts liaise with different authorities in the foreign countries and concerned state authorities in India to obtain medical report / death certificate from the hospital concerned, police report (with English translation, if required in case of accidental or unnatural death) and consent letter from next of kin of the deceased for local cremation/burial/transportation.

Mission / Post issues “No Objection Certificate” (NOC) for transportation or local cremation / burial as required immediately, including on weekends / holidays, on receipt of requisite documents and further facilitates the process by coordinating for clearance and arrangements for embalming of mortal remains from the authorities concerned in the foreign country, clearance from local immigration/customs department and coordination with Indian customs authorities and State authorities in India, if required.

The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is set up in Indian Missions & Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations on a means tested basis in deserving cases. The support extended under ICWF includes transportation of mortal remains.
