

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED FINALLY ADMITTED QUESTION NO. 1520**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

**VACANCIES IN CONSULATES AND EMBASSIES**

1520. DR. V. SIVADASAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sanctioned posts, number of posts filled on a permanent basis, the number of personnel engaged on contract and number of vacancies in Indian Embassies and Consulates, country-wise and year-wise during the last five years;
- (b) whether the existing staffing strength is adequate to handle consular services, grievance redressal, and emergency assistance for Indian nationals abroad; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to address staffing shortages and infrastructure constraints in Missions, particularly in countries with a large Indian diaspora?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH]

(a to c) As on 01 January 2026, the total sanctioned strength of the Ministry in Indian Embassies and Consulates is 3264. Additionally, the number of local staff engaged on contract in Indian Embassies and Consulates is 3179. Vacancies in Indian Missions/Posts abroad, under the various MEA cadres, are regularly determined and officers appointed thereto from time to time. Generally, gaps between the departure of the incumbents and arrival of their successors are kept to the minimum. However, as the posting chains often involve several officers, on some occasions, the Missions/Posts abroad do have to face some short-term vacancies. It is not possible to determine the exact number of vacancies on any particular day, since officers are demitting charge in some of our Missions/Posts abroad and others are assuming charge in some.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad has a dedicated consular wing equipped with adequate staff to address to the grievances of distressed Indian nationals abroad. Grievances are responded through various channels like calls, walk-ins, e-mails, social media, 24x7 Helplines and Open Houses. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSKs) have been set up at Dubai, Sharjah, Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuala Lumpur to provide assistance to Indian workers abroad. Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals have also been set up at some Missions/Posts. Mission officials visit immigration offices and labour camps to address the complaints of Indian workers. Financial assistance to distressed Indians, if necessary, is provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). During emergency or crisis situations, our Missions/Posts abroad pro-actively help distressed/stranded Indian nationals in terms of providing food, shelter, medicine and helping their return to India.

The Ministry of External Affairs accords highest priority to optimize the deployment of its human resources to help fulfill its growing responsibilities. The Indian Embassies and

Consulates are staffed in accordance with their respective sanctioned strengths. Vacancies arising at various levels in the Ministry are filled by direct recruitment and promotion from feeder cadres. The Ministry regularly reviews the requirement of manpower at various levels in Missions and Posts abroad, and takes appropriate action, including recruitment of additional officers and staff, through placement of requisite indents with the Union Public Service Commission and the Staff Selection Commission respectively.

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