

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 725
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026

**COMPLAINTS FROM INDIAN FAMILIES ON CYBER THREATENING AND
BLACKMAILING**

725. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN

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

- (a) whether Government has received complaints from distressed Indian families living abroad on cyber threatening and blackmailing;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) the existing policy framework, including support under the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF); and
- (d) whether Government proposes to review, streamline and strengthen repatriation procedures, funding support and embassy guidelines to ensure compassionate and affordable assistance to affected families?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of complaints received from distressed Indian families living abroad on cyber threatening and blackmailing, during the last five years, year-wise is:

Sr. No.	Country Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	Australia	0	0	0	0	5
2	Cambodia	0	44	207	982	1300
3	Canada	0	0	0	3	5
4	Denmark	0	0	0	0	1
5	Germany	0	0	0	0	15
6	Japan	0	0	0	0	7
7	Latvia	0	0	0	0	1
8	Myanmar	0	399	83	203	1863
9	Sri Lanka	0	0	0	200	50
10	United Kingdom	0	0	1	0	0
11	USA	0	0	0	8	613

(c) & (d) The Government has set up several mechanisms to reach out to distressed Indians abroad. The e-Migrate web portal, MADAD portal, Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayata Kendras, 24x7 Helplines, Open Houses at Indian Missions and Posts, etc. are some of such important mechanisms.

ICWF has been set up in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to meet the contingency expenditure incurred by them for carrying out various on-site welfare activities for Overseas Indian citizens on a means-tested basis. The ICWF guidelines have been comprehensively revised w.e.f. September 1, 2017. The revised guidelines have considerably expanded the scope of on-site welfare activities for the benefit of distressed Indian nationals that could be extended through the Fund. The guidelines cover three key areas namely Assisting Overseas Indian nationals in distress situations, Welfare activities and Improvement in Consular services. They also include provisions for legal assistance in countries with sizeable Indian diaspora, payment of fines/penalty for petty crimes for release of prisoners and assistance to distressed Indian women abroad.
