

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 132
ANSWERED ON - 30/07/2026

STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS FOR OVERSEAS EVACUATIONS

132. SHRI VINOD SHRIDHAR TAWDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed recent overseas evacuation operations, including Operation Ganga, Operation Kaveri and Operation Ajay, to institutionalise a Standard Operating Procedure for future evacuations;
- (b) the measures taken to strengthen preparedness for such evacuations, including risk assessment, contingency planning, inter-agency coordination, transport logistics, communication and post-evacuation assistance;
- (c) whether systems are proposed for real-time registration and tracking of Indian nationals in vulnerable countries; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen coordination among the Ministry, Indian Missions and other stakeholders for timely evacuation during emergencies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *132 BY SHRI VINOD SHRIDHAR TAWDE TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING ‘STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS FOR OVERSEAS EVACUATIONS’.

(a) to (d): Government has a Standard Operating Procedure in place to handle evacuation emergencies related to Indian nationals abroad. The External Affairs Ministry’s ‘Rapid Response Cell (RRC)’ coordinates with all agencies, services, armed forces, and ministries in order to ensure seamless inter-ministerial coordination for execution of evacuation operations.

Government continuously assesses and reviews the safety and evacuation preparedness for Indian nationals, especially those residing in conflict-affected regions. A structured, multi-layered mechanism is used to closely monitor emergent situations. Based on prevailing circumstances, Government issues advisories to caution Indian nationals to avoid unnecessary travel, follow safety guidelines and remain in contact with Indian Missions. Various communication mechanisms are put in place for Indian nationals to reach Indian Missions/Posts, including email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, social media, toll-free helplines & WhatsApp numbers. Wherever necessary, Government launches evacuation operations, involving multiple stakeholders, to safely evacuate stranded Indian nationals. During evacuation, 24x7 Control Rooms are operated at headquarters and abroad to provide information and assistance to the stranded Indian nationals and facilitate their evacuation. Government also provides logistical support, including safe shelter, meals, local and cross-border movement and transportation and evacuation flights as needed. Government engages with various domestic and international airlines, shipping companies and transport logistics agencies in coordination with Indian missions to facilitate safe evacuation of Indian nationals. Throughout any crisis, Government remains in continuous contact with concerned foreign governments through diplomatic channels to ensure the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad, as also to coordinate evacuation operations.

The Government also engages with the State Governments through Resident Commissioners to provide regular situational updates, share State-wise details of evacuated Indian nationals, coordinate their reception at arrival airports upon evacuation and arrange their further movement to respective States/hometowns. Government’s recent evacuation operations including Operation Ganga, Operation Kaveri, Operation Ajay, Operation Sindhu and Operation Indravati have been undertaken while following the processes described above. All these evacuation operations are testimonies of Government’s commitment towards safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.

Government is undertaking final trials of a digital emergency response solution for use during evacuation operations. The solution provides a platform for stranded Indian nationals to register with basic and real-time information, along with geo-tagging locations and seek assistance during crisis situations.
