

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1330
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

SAFETY OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1330 DR. JOHN BRITTAS

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian seafarers and other Indian nationals killed, injured, stranded or evacuated due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East since January, 2026, country-wise;
- (b) the details of compensation and assistance provided to them or their families;
- (c) the diplomatic actions taken pursuant to such incidents; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes a dedicated crisis protection and insurance mechanism for Indians working in conflict-prone regions?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Since the outbreak of the conflict in the Middle East in 2026, 16 Indian nationals including 10 seafarers have lost their lives in the Middle East (1 in Saudi Arabia; 2 in Kuwait; 8 in Oman; 1 in Iraq; and 4 in UAE) and 75 Indians have been injured (32 in UAE; 24 in Oman; 4 in Qatar; 13 in Kuwait; 1 in Saudi Arabia; and 1 in Israel). In a separate accident not related to attacks, 12 Indian nationals have lost their lives in Ras Laffan Gas Facility in Qatar.

Government, in coordination with the host governments, extended all possible assistance to the families of the deceased Indian nationals for early repatriation of the mortal remains to India. The injured Indian nationals received medical treatment in local hospitals. Indian Embassies and Consulates coordinated with the local authorities and the hospitals for regular updates on the health condition and extended all required assistance, viz., establishing contact with the family members, guidance on available travel options and their safe return to India, etc.

In all cases involving war-zone incidents, under the DGMA Welfare Scheme (Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society - SWFS), an ex-gratia compensation of ₹10 lakhs is provided. Following due diligence and verification, the amount is disbursed by the Government expeditiously to the Next of Kin of the affected seafarers. Seafarers covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreements signed with their respective unions are also eligible for additional war-zone compensation, by Maritime Union of India - for officers (₹12 lakh), or National Union of Seafarers of India - for crew (₹10 lakh). With regard to compensation payable under the vessel's Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Insurance Cover, the

concerned Recruitment and Placement Service License is primarily responsible for pursuing the claim (if applied) with the P&I Club/Insurer. The compensation related to the death of seafarers is being coordinated by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. In 05 cases out of 16, the compensation amount has been disbursed. Compensation related to the death in incidence of Gas Facility in Qatar, has been covered under the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), under which an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh has been sanctioned to the next of kin of each deceased Indian national. Government does not have details of compensation payments made by Government of Qatar directly to affected families.

The Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassies and Consulates in the region coordinated closely with the respective local authorities in the impacted countries, as well as with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, to facilitate the travel of stranded Indian passengers to India. Upon partial opening of airspace across the region, Government facilitated a number of commercial flights, including non-scheduled operations. In those countries where commercial flight operations were not available, Indian nationals were facilitated to obtain transit visa and travel to adjacent countries to embark on available flights.

Government's assistance was also extended on issues related to temporary arrangements of food and shelter, relocation of Indian nationals within and outside the country, cross-border movements, issuance of necessary travel documents, guidance on expiring visas, etc. Indian Embassies and Consulates in these regions extended regular consular services and emergency assistance amid the crisis.

To ensure safety, security and well-being of the Indian nationals abroad, Government utilizes a structured, multi-layered mechanism, consisting of regular advisories, setting up additional emergency helplines and 24x7 control rooms, and evacuation operations as necessary.

With a view to swiftly responding to crisis situations faced by overseas Indian nationals, the Rapid Response Cell (RRC) of the Ministry of External Affairs coordinates with concerned agencies, services, armed forces, and Ministries to ensure seamless coordination for execution of evacuation operations. The Ministry of External Affairs has also developed and is undertaking final trials of a digital emergency response solution for use during evacuation operations.
