

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1351**  
ANSWERED ON 30/07/2026

**ARREST AND DEPORTATION OF INDIAN TRUCK DRIVERS IN THE UNITED STATES**

1351 # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that, under 'Operation Checkmate', 52 persons, including 36 semi-truck drivers, were recently arrested by the United States Border Patrol, of whom 30 were Indian nationals;
- (b) whether Government has obtained, from the United States authorities, the particulars of these 30 Indian nationals, including their home States/districts and details of their families;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken for their rehabilitation/reintegration after deportation;
- (d) whether the Indian Embassy Consulate was informed prior to these arrests; and
- (e) the action taken to provide legal assistance and consular access to these Indian nationals?

**ANSWER**

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

(a to e) As per information released on 1 June 2026 by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), during the week of 11–15 May 2026, U.S. Border Patrol agents in the State of Arizona arrested 52 individuals during “Operation Checkmate” for allegedly being in the United States illegally, of whom 36 were driving semi-trucks. The U.S. statement indicated that 30 of these individuals were Indian nationals and that they had been processed in accordance with U.S. federal law and would be deported.

“Operation Checkmate” was an enforcement action undertaken by the U.S. authorities, and the Ministry of External Affairs had no prior information regarding the operation. However, as soon as reports regarding the detention/arrest of these individuals emerged, the Ministry, through the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C., took up the matter with the concerned U.S. authorities and sought their names, particulars and other relevant information. The Government of India is awaiting confirmation from the U.S. CBP regarding the identity and particulars of the individuals concerned.

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