

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1353
ANSWERED ON 30/07/2026

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN NATIONALS DETAINED ABROAD

1353 SHRI SANJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether families are advised to arrange private lawyers in respective countries in cases involving missing or detained Indian nationals abroad;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the financial and practical difficulties faced by middle-class and economically weaker families in engaging lawyers and travelling abroad to pursue such cases;
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide free or subsidised legal representation through Indian Embassies/Consulates in deserving cases, particularly where families are unable to bear the cost of legal proceedings abroad; and
- (d) the details of legal and financial assistance provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) during the last five years, country-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b) & (c) Families of Indian nationals are advised to arrange for lawyers and bear the expenditure on legal proceedings including those involving missing or detained Indians abroad. However Indian Missions/Posts provide financial aid for legal assistance on a means tested basis to deserving Indian nationals in distress abroad under the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). Such assistance under the ICWF is provided by Missions/Posts to Indian nationals who commit minor crimes, Indians detained in jails, students, migrant workers, Indian women in distress etc. and for assisting in several legal procedures. Several Indian Missions/Posts with a sizeable population of

Indian nationals maintain a panel of lawyers to provide legal assistance to deserving Indian nationals in distress on a means tested basis.

(d) Details of financial assistance provided including legal assistance through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) during the last five years, Mission/Post wise, is attached as **Annexure A.**

Details of the Year wise ICWF data for Legal Assistance(Mission wise)

2021

Sr. No	Mission/Post	No of Beneficiaries	Expenditure in INR
1	Abidjan	1	305118
2	Abu Dhabi	1	16427
3	Baghdad	1	50625
4	Bahrain	1	62302
5	Bangkok	1	17222
6	Beirut	13	819434
7	Cairo	1	24246
8	Chittagong	1	8745
9	Colombo	3	66251
10	Doha	45	179060.69
11	Dubai	2	629778
12	Jaffna	25	15563
13	Jeddah	49	240562
14	Kandy	1	4522.26
15	Kuala Lumpur	9	594571.99
16	London	1	306722
17	New York	2	452850
18	Shanghai	1	505285.23
	Total	158	4299285.17

2022

Sr. No	Mission/Post	No of Beneficiaries	Expenditure in INR
1	Atlanta	2	290060
2	Dubai	1	263598
3	Jaffna	168	99046
4	Toronto	1	625000
5	Abu Dhabi	5	51053
6	Astana	1	22650
7	Bahrain	4	199155
8	Bangkok	1	100980
9	Beirut	19	545691
10	Berlin	1	1353168
11	Doha	114	740981
12	Kathmandu	1	31250
13	Khartoum	1	664640
14	Sanaa	2	193766
15	Washington	2	609167
16	Yangon	41	830215
17	Colombo	22	63986
18	Kuala Lumpur	1	35336
	Total	387	6719742

2023

Sr No.	Mission/Post	No of Beneficiaries	Expenditure (in INR)
1	Abu Dhabi	1	241379
2	Astana	1	105766
3	Atlanta	1	165940
4	Bahrain	2	74598
5	Bangkok	1	18394
6	Brasilia	1	67568
7	Buenos Aires	1	2147
8	Colombo	12	55295
9	Djibouti	2	222167
10	Doha	146	112441879
11	Dubai	5	1147317
12	Hambantota	56	56116
13	Jaffna	134	115489
14	Johannesburg	1	8250
15	Kandy	1	30951
16	London	1	360162
17	Muscat	50	332979
18	New York	2	108786
19	Prague	1	970485
20	Ramallah	10	243310
21	Riyadh	2	1015873
22	Sanaa	2	222167
23	Seoul Paulo	1	96207
24	Sylhet	3	141243
25	Vientiane	11	132641
26	Washington	1	336000
27	Wellington	89	483600
28	Yangon	9	216359
	Total	547	119413068

2024

Sr. No	Mission/Post	No of Beneficiaries	Expenditure (in INR)
1	Antananarivo	2	3567
2	Bahrain	5	160819
3	Bandar Abbas	1	1704
4	Beirut	10	266872
5	Berlin	2	1624577.29
6	Cairo	1	7097.23
7	Colombo	23	31030
8	Dakar	12	1139479
9	Doha	72	888655.64
10	Guangzhou	19	154406
11	Hambantota	420	276151.72

12	Jaffna	531	379013.44
13	Jeddah	1	69426
14	Kandy	1	7700.28
15	Kigali	2	17547
16	Kuala Lumpur	2	348074.16
17	Kuwait	4	222656
18	Lome,	2	167118
19	London	1	192438
20	Muscat	36	243129
21	New York	4	798955
22	Prague	1	77917.75
23	Seoul	1	102284.4
24	Tashkent	1	362377
25	Tehran	1	3372
26	Vienna	0	357302
27	Vientiane	0	0
28	Wellington	4	168235
	Total	1159	8071903.91

2025			
Sr. No.	Mission/Posts	No of Beneficiaries	Expenditure(in INR)
1	Vienna	2	76613
2	Phnom Penh	12	39321
2	Toronto	1	347800
4	Guangzhou	14	118114
5	Cairo	1	24423
6	Hamburg	1	115561
7	Medan	9	1173579
8	Erbil	1	34700
9	Kuwait	4	459323
10	Vientiane	1	223675
11	Beirut	2	543359
12	Kuala Lumpur	51	247993
13	Lima	1	84227
14	Manila	0	0
15	Warsaw	1	23435
16	Lisbon	0	0
17	Doha	51	627836
18	Kandy	1	51111
19	Colombo	19	217793
20	Jaffna	214	366910
21	Damascus	1	70275
22	Istanbul	1	26595
23	Dubai	1	374109
24	New York	1	348200
	Total	390	5594951.54
