

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2956
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

ARREST OF INDIAN WORKERS AT AIRPORTS

2956: SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received complaints regarding Indian workers, particularly in Arab countries, being arrested at airports while attempting to return to India after allegations of theft, financial offences or other crimes against them;
- (b) the details of such cases during the last five years in which Indian Missions intervened, and the cases which were subsequently found to involve false, fabricated or disputed allegations; and
- (c) whether there is any mechanism requiring Indian Missions to immediately inform the family in India when citizen is detained, so families are not left unaware of the whereabouts and safety of their loved ones for several days?

ANSWER

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

(a to c) Foreign Governments generally do not share information about arrest of foreign nationals except when they are under orders of deportation and travel document/nationality verification and issuance of Emergency Certificate is required. Arrests of Indian nationals are generally reported to Indian Missions/Posts by the detainee's family members, friends, or colleagues. Indian Missions/Posts actively take up such matters with the relevant local authorities, secure consular access and keep the family members informed.

The Indian Missions/Posts also utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide financial and legal assistance to Indian nationals in distress abroad on a means-tested basis. Under ICWF, support such as arranging boarding & lodging, air passage to India, legal assistance and emergency medical care is rendered to Indian nationals.

Number of complaints received from Indian workers in the Arab countries regarding various types of labour issues including arrests at airports and the number of such complaints successfully resolved over the 2021-25 period is attached at **Annexure – A**.

Annexure-A

S.N o.	Name of the Country	Number of complaints received/resolved									
		Compl aints receiv ed	Complaint s resolved	Complain ts received	Complaint s resolved	Complain ts received	Complain ts resolved	Complain ts received	Complain ts resolved	Complaint s received	Complain ts resolved
		2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025
1.	Algeria	8	8	4	4	4	4	7	7	3	3
2.	Bahrain	335	327	612	579	711	649	603	594	345	341
3.	Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
4.	Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
5.	Jordan	0	0	0	0	118	118	23	23	43	43
6.	Kuwait	4,339	2,910	5,660	3,820	7,820	4,517	3,728	2,055	4,081	2,608
7.	Mauritania	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
8.	Morocco	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Oman	1,401	1,391	2,478	1,927	4,281	4,111	3,114	3,035	2,345	2,241
10.	Qatar	1,551	1,552	436	568	139	121	162	334	135	257
11.	Saudi Arabia	1,778	1,772	2,445	2,439	3,127	3,098	2,876	2,637	2,897	2,345
12.	Syria	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	2	2
13.	Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	48	48
14.	UAE	3,205	2,948	3,766	3,705	4,034	3,649	3,682	3,543	4,381	3,963
