

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 552
ANSWERED ON - 23/07/2026

INDIAN SAILORS STRANDED ON FOREIGN VESSELS

552 SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian sailors stranded aboard foreign vessels during the last three years;
- (b) the assistance extended by Indian Missions; and
- (c) whether a standard protocol exists for their emergency evacuation?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian sailors stranded aboard foreign vessels during the last three years is placed at Annexure A.

(b) & (c) Indian Missions/Posts attaches high priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian seafarers/sailors. As soon as any requests regarding Indian sailor is received, concerned Mission/Post coordinates with local authorities to ascertain the well-being of Indian sailors and provide requisite help and support, including consular assistance and medical support. Financial assistance is provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) on a means-tested basis. Apart from extending all possible consular assistance, Missions/Posts also assist in providing legal aid wherever needed. In case of repatriation, Missions/Posts provide necessary travel documents to facilitate their repatriation to India.

Upon receipt of request or information from the sailor, shipping company, local authorities, family members, or other relevant parties, Indian Missions/Posts record the basic details of the case, including location, vessel name, and nature of the emergency & verify the identity and nationality of the sailor.

Indian Missions/Posts assess the urgency of the case, including any medical, safety, legal, or humanitarian concerns and coordinate, as appropriate, with the local maritime authorities, immigration authorities, port authorities, and shipping company. In cases where evacuation is considered necessary and feasible, Indian Mission/Post coordinates with all relevant stakeholders, subject to local laws and applicable regulations.

ANNEXURE – A

Country Name	the number of Indian sailors stranded aboard foreign vessels in 2023	the number of Indian sailors stranded aboard foreign vessels in 2024	the number of Indian sailors stranded aboard foreign vessels in 2025
Albania	0	0	5
Brazil	0	0	1
Croatia	0	0	1
Djibouti	7	0	37
Egypt	0	18	1
Eritrea	0	0	23
Greece	6	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	31
Italy	0	9	1
Lebanon	0	1	0
Malaysia	0	14	34
Mozambique	0	2	0
Nigeria	0	2	10
Qatar	0	0	2
Saudi Arabia	0	0	25
Singapore	0	16	0
South Africa	6	4	13
Tunisia	0	0	1
Turkiye	0	32	48
United Arab Emirates	37	34	90
Yemen	0	0	6
Total	56	132	329
