

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2840
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2017**

QATAR STANDOFF

2840. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several Arab countries have cut-off ties with Qatar;**
- (b) if so, the number of such countries;**
- (c) the number of Indians at present residing or working in that country;**
- (d) whether any assistance has been provided by India to its citizens in that country; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the stand taken by the Indian Government on the cutting off ties by many countries with Qatar?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)**

(a) & (b) Yes, some Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen and Libya, have recently cut off ties with Qatar.

(c) About 6,30,000 Indians are presently residing or working in Qatar.

(d) & (e) There has been no need for providing any assistance to Indians residing in Qatar since the situation there has been normal. However, to meet the increased demand for travel due to Eid and school holiday period in June 2017, additional commercial flights were operated by Indian carriers from Doha to some cities in India in the light of decision by some Gulf carriers to stop flight operations to and fro Doha.

The Government has been closely following the emerging situation in the region. We are in regular touch with the regional countries which have assured us of their continued support for the welfare and well-being of over eight million Indian expatriates in the region.

As regards the cutting off ties by these countries with Qatar, India's position is that all parties should resolve their differences through a process of constructive dialogue and peaceful negotiations based on well-established international principles of mutual respect, sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.
