

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.66
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2017**

DNA TEST OF FAMILIES OF MISSING WORKERS

***66.** SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated and completed the DNA testing of the families of 39 Indian workers who were kidnapped from Mosul, Iraq and missing from there since June, 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the timeline fixed in this regard along with the reasons for delay;
- (c) whether the Government has shared the details of missing workers with the Iraqi authorities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the plan of action/steps taken to trace the workers?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 66 REGARDING “DNA TEST OF FAMILIES OF MISSING WORKERS” TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2017

(a) & (b) Yes, the Government has initiated the process of collecting DNA samples from the families of 39 Indian workers missing from Mosul, Iraq since June 2014, for onward transmission to Iraqi authorities.

Following liberation of Mosul and Badush during July and August, 2017 by the Iraqi armed forces from the control of the terrorist organisation ISIS, Iraqi authorities informed Government of India about the mass graves found in and around these areas. The Iraqi Martyrs’ Foundation asked for DNA samples of the close relatives of the missing Indians for matching with the mortal remains being discovered in the graves.

Urgent steps were taken to arrange for DNA samples of the family members of the missing Indians to assist the Iraqi authorities in their investigations. DNA samples, as received from our respective State governments, have been forwarded to the Iraqi authorities.

(c) to (e) The Government has been making all possible efforts to trace the 39 Indian workers missing in Iraq. Assistance has been sought from Iraq and other countries in the region, in locating their whereabouts. Efforts are currently underway to obtain proof of their being alive or dead.
