

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018

INDIANS MISSING IN IRAQ

1884. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated and completed the DNA testing of the families of Indian workers that are missing since June 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the timeline of completion of the testing;
- (c) whether the Government has shared the details in this regard with the Iraqi authorities and if so, the details thereof and the response received from them in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the plan of action and steps taken by the Government to trace the workers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V.K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) Yes. The Government has initiated and completed 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 for inclusion in their database for matching with the DNA from the human remains being retrieved by them from mass graves.

The Report of the Test is awaited.
