

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.873
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018

INDIAN HOSTAGES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

†873. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians who are still the hostages of terrorists in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan like war-stricken countries, country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to bring those Indians back safely to the country from those countries where they are stranded; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the number of abducted Indians brought back safely from these countries?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per information available in the Ministry, except Iraq where a group of 39 Indian nationals working in a construction company in Mosul reportedly went missing when the terrorist organization ISIS took over control of a large part of Iraqi territory, no Indians are still held hostage in war-stricken countries like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Indian workers in Iraq are reported to have been taken captive by the ISIS.

(b) & (c) The Government has been making all possible efforts to trace the 39 Indian nationals. Assistance has been sought from the countries in the region, including Iraq, in locating their whereabouts. After liberation of Mosul in July 2017, MOS (VKS) has visited Iraq thrice in this regard.
