

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.72
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.06.2019**

HARASSMENT OF YOUTH ABROAD

†*72. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the youth working abroad have to face harassment due to lack of information of the rules and regulations of that Country or due to some other reasons;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Indian Embassy to provide immediate assistance to them;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Indians are languishing in jails of various countries including the Gulf Countries;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and**
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure release of such prisoners and bring them back to the country?**

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)**

(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. *72 REGARDING
“HARASSMENT OF YOUTH ABROD” FOR ANSWER ON 26.06.2019**

Given the large number of Indian youth who go abroad for work, the Government is aware that some of them have to face harassment due to lack of familiarity with the rules and regulations of that country or due to some other reasons.

The well being and welfare of Indians abroad is among the top priorities for the Government of India. Indian Missions and Posts advise Indians living abroad to register themselves with their Consular and Community Welfare Sections. Missions and Posts also widely disseminate salient information on various issues, including information related to the host countries, through website, social media, etc. with a view to enhance the awareness of Indian nationals abroad.

Comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) which has been started on a voluntary basis, is also a step in the direction of making our workers more aware and to sensitize them to best practices to ensure their welfare and safety. Such PDOT has already been imparted to over 46,000 workers so far and a Pre-Departure Orientation booklet has now been launched in 6 different Indian languages for distribution to emigrating workers.

In addition, Indian Missions / Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor any incidents of harassment faced by Indian nationals, including the youth. Apart from that, Indian Missions/ Posts abroad also extend all possible help and assistance to Indian nationals including when they are detained by local police/ immigration authorities or put in prisons for violation of local laws. Apart from extending them all possible consular assistance, Indian Missions and Posts also assist in availing legal aid wherever needed.

As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners in foreign jails as of 31.05.2019 is 8189 which also includes under-trials. Country-wise list is given at Annexure. However, due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Even countries which share information do not generally provide detailed information about the people of foreign countries imprisoned.

Indian Missions / Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor the incidents of Indian nationals being put in jail in foreign countries for violation of local laws or alleged violation of local laws. Apart from extending them all possible consular assistance, Indian Missions and Posts also assist in availing legal aid wherever needed. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizeable numbers. Legal assistance is also provided to Indian nationals abroad including those in prison on a means-tested basis in deserving cases through the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

Further, the Government has concluded Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons with a number of countries. Due to the efforts of the Government, a number of Indian nationals in prisons abroad have received amnesty or commutation of their sentences. Since 2016 till present, in the countries in Gulf region a total of 3087 Indian nationals have received amnesty or commutation of their sentences.

LS FAQ No. 72 reg. Harassment of Youth abroad to be answered on 26.06.2019

S No	Name of Country	Number of Indians in foreign jails as on 31.5.2019
1	Afghanistan	Nil
2	Algeria	Nil
3	Angola	Nil
4	Argentina	Nil
5	Armenia	9
6	Austria	5
7	Australia	78
8	Azerbaijan	3
9	Bahrain	134
10	Belarus	1
11	Bangladesh	58
12	Belgium	12
13	Bhutan	53
14	Botswana	Nil
15	Brazil	2
16	Brunei	1
17	Bulgaria	Nil
18	Cambodia	3
19	Canada	70
20	Chile	Nil
21	China	270
22	Congo	4
23	Colombia	5
24	Cote D' Ivoire	1
25	Croatia	Nil
26	Cuba	1
27	Cyprus	11
28	Czech Republic	Nil
29	Denmark	5
30	Egypt	2
31	Ethiopia	Nil
32	Fiji	1
33	Finland	1
34	France	38
35	Germany	59
36	Ghana	1
37	Greece	
38	Guatemala	2
39	Guyana	Nil
40	Hungary	3
41	Iceland	Nil
42	Indonesia	19
43	Iran	18

44	Iraq	4
45	Ireland	Nil
46	Israel	7
47	Italy	242
48	Jamaica	Nil
49	Japan	7
50	Jordan	25
51	Kazakhstan	Nil
52	Kenya	Nil
53	Korea (DPR)	Nil
54	Korea (Republic of)	3
55	Kuwait	511
56	Kyrgyzstan	2
57	Laos PDR	2
58	Lebanon	5
59	Libya	Nil
60	Madagascar	15
61	Malawi	Nil
62	Malaysia	576
63	Maldives	14
64	Mali	Nil
65	Malta	1
66	Mauritius	4
67	Mexico	2
68	Morocco	Nil
69	Mongolia	Nil
70	Mozambique	6
71	Myanmar	61
72	Namibia	NIL
73	Nepal	1160
74	Netherlands	1
75	New Zealand	13
76	Niger	Nil
77	Nigeria	1
78	Norway	Nil
79	Oman	101
80	Pakistan	48
81	Palestine	Nil
82	Panama	1
83	Papua New Guinea	Nil
84	Peru	Nil
85	Philippines	34
86	Poland	5
87	Portugal	5
88	Qatar	257
89	Romania	Nil
90	Russia	6
91	Saudi Arabia	1811
92	Serbia	Nil
93	Senegal	Nil

94	Seychelles	Nil
95	Singapore	111
96	Slovak Republic	Nil
97	Slovenia	2
98	South Africa	6
99	South Sudan	Nil
100	Spain	21
101	Sri Lanka	111
102	Sudan	Nil
103	Suriname	Nil
104	Sweden	2
105	Switzerland	Nil
106	Syria	Nil
107	Tajikistan	Nil
108	Tanzania	1
109	Thailand	44
110	Trinidad & Tobago	Nil
111	Tunisia	Nil
112	Turkey	2
113	Turkmenistan	Nil
114	Uganda	1
115	United Arab Emirates	1392
116	United Kingdom	6
117	Ukraine	
118	Venezuela	Nil
119	Vietnam	Nil
120	United States of America	689
121	Uzbekistan	Nil
122	Venezuela	Nil
123	Vietnam	1
124	Yemen	
125	Zambia	Nil
126	Zimbabwe	Nil
Total		8189
