

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1471
ANSWERED ON- 28/07/2023

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO EMBASSIES

1471. Dr. M. P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the issues involved in bringing the mortal remains of Indian expatriates from Gulf Countries, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has allotted any funds to embassies to meet the expenses of airfare in such cases, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government will ensure facilities in the flights from Gulf countries to bring dead bodies and stretcher patients, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) A single window clearance system is adopted by our Missions/Posts abroad for handling death cases. As soon as the Mission / Post comes to know about unfortunate death of an Indian citizen, the Consular Wing of the Mission/ Post immediately gets in touch with the family/relative of the deceased Indian national. Consent letter (duly attested by a Notary) is arranged from the family in India for local burial/transportation of mortal remains to India. If the family has any suspicion on the death, they are guided to convey the same in the consent letter so that the matter could be taken up with local police authorities by the Mission for post mortem and police investigations. The Mission provides all required assistance and facilitate the completion of all the formalities in coordination with the local police and other authorities for transportation of mortal remains at the earliest possible in accordance with the wishes of the family of the deceased.

(b) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been set up in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to assist Overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency. Fund is also used for transportation of mortal remains of Indian nationals.

Funds for ICWF are raised by levying a service charge on Consular, Passport and Visa services provided by the Mission/Post. These funds are kept in a separate Account in the concerned Missions and Posts. Powers have been delegated to the Heads of Missions and Posts to incur required

expenditure from ICWF. Funds can also be transferred from ICWF account of a Mission to another Mission on need basis.

(c) All Missions and Posts abroad including in the Gulf countries take prompt action for transportation of mortal remains of Indian nationals deceased abroad and stretcher patients through commercial flights in coordination with family of the deceased and local Government authorities.
