

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-925
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2023

MORTAL REMAINS OF INDIANS

925. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH

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

- (a) whether the Government has any details of the number of deceased Indian expatriates in GCC countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and current year, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of delay in paper work and formalities occurring on part of the embassies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (e) whether the Government is considering transfer of mortal remains of pravasis free of cost by expending the sum from the funds of embassies' consulate offices; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) The information available with the Ministry is placed below:

Country	Number of deceased Indians; year-wise			
	2020	2021	2022	2023 (till 30.11.2023)
Bahrain	311	399	254	273
Kuwait	1279	1202	731	647
Oman	630	913	453	465
Qatar	385	420	366	319
Saudi Arabia	3754	2328	2148	2442
United Arab Emirates	2454	2714	2208	1920

(c & d) Government of India attaches the highest priority to addressing and resolving the issues pertaining to transportation of mortal remains of Indian nationals. As soon as our Mission / Post comes to know of such unfortunate death of an Indian citizen, the Consular Wing of the Mission / Post immediately contacts the kin of the deceased Indian national as well as the local authorities to complete the necessary formalities and facilitate the transportation or local burial / cremation of the mortal remains in accordance with the wishes of the kin and local regulations.

In order to expedite the repatriation of mortal remains to India, our Missions / Posts also liaise with different authorities in the foreign countries and concerned state authorities in India to obtain Medical report / death certificate from the hospital concerned, police report (with English translation, if required in case of accidental or unnatural death) and consent letter from next of kin of the deceased for local cremation / burial / transportation.

Mission / Post issues “No Objection Certificate” (NOC) for transportation or local cremation / burial as required immediately, including on weekends/holidays, on receipt of requisite documents and further facilitates the process by coordinating for clearance and arrangements for embalming of mortal remains from the authorities concerned in the foreign country, clearance from local immigration / customs department and coordination with Indian customs authorities and also with State authorities in India if required.

(e & f) The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), available to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad, is used to assist overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency, which includes transportation of mortal remains, on a ‘means tested basis’.
