

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2706
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2019

FREE TRANSPORT OF MORTAL REMAINS

2706. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a request that the dead bodies of NRIs would be sent to India free of cost; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) There have been some requests regarding the high and variable cost of transportation of dead bodies of Indian nationals from Gulf countries to India.

The matter was taken up with Ministry of Civil Aviation and Air India and based on the discussions, Air India has implemented a flat rate for transfer of mortal remains of Indian nationals from Gulf countries to various destinations in India. The flat rate implemented by Air India amounts to average reduction of fares of up to 30-35% to some of the major destinations in India from Gulf countries.

In addition, our Missions and Posts abroad continue to provide assistance for free of cost transfer of mortal remains to India under this Ministry's Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in deserving cases on a means-tested basis.
