GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3923
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2020

RESCUING PEOPLE FROM CHINA

3923.   SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether students were evacuated from corona hit China;

(b)   If so, the details thereof and from which places in China, our Government has rescued people; and

(c)   whether the Government has rescued people of other countries also and if so, the details thereof, country/number of people-wise and the consideration for opting certain nations?

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

(a) to (c)   The Government of India organized three special flights on January 31, February 1 and February 26 to evacuate 766 persons, including students from the city of Wuhan as well as other cities of Hubei Province in China in view of the continuing lock down of the Hubei Province because of the Coronavirus there.

As conveyed by External Affairs Minister in the Rajya Sabha on 7 February 2020, at the time of our flights, it had been indicated to the larger community in Wuhan that in addition to bringing back Indian nationals, we would also like to bring back people of our neighbouring countries who would like to come back.

The evacuated persons included 723 Indian nationals and 43 foreign nationals. The foreign nationals included 23 from Bangladesh, 9 from Maldives, 2 from Myanmar, 1 from South Africa, 1 from Madagascar and 1 from United States of America who was a partner of an Indian national. In addition, 6 Chinese citizens who were spouses and/or children of Indian nationals were also evacuated.

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