

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4030  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2020**

**INDIANS IN KUWAIT AND IRAN**

**4030. SHRI D.K. SURESH:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that many Indians are held up in Arab countries including Kuwait and Iran due to Coronavirus;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action to rescue such people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b) The following instances have come to the notice of the government, as regards Indians held up in Arab countries including Kuwait and Iran due to Coronavirus:

- (i) Eight resident Indians in the United Arab Emirates are under quarantine. Kuwait has none.
- (ii) In Iran, as per available information, there are over 6000 Indian nationals, including about 1100 pilgrims mainly from the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir and the State of Maharashtra; nearly 300 students primarily from the UT of Jammu & Kashmir; about 1000 fishermen, including from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat; and others who are on long term stay in Iran for pursuing their livelihood and religious studies.

(c) & (d) Government of India has made focussed efforts for the safe return of Indians stranded in Iran. A team of six Indian health officials has been deputed to Iran in order to set up testing and sampling facilities there. 1706 samples have been taken, including from pilgrims, students and other Indians stranded in Iran. These are tested including in National Institute of Virology, Pune. As of 16 March 2020, 389 Indians, including 205 pilgrims and 183 students have been repatriated in four batches onboard special flights of the Indian Air Force and Iranian airlines. Our Consulate in Bandar Abbas has reached out to the Indian fishermen who are residing mainly in southern provinces of Iran. They are in good health and have sufficient provision of essential supplies.

Efforts are being made to facilitate early return of the Indian nationals stranded in Iran after testing them.

Our Embassies/Consulates in the region are in touch with the Indian nationals and are working with the local authorities to provide all possible assistance.

The situation is being monitored regularly.

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