

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2020**

TRAVEL ADVISORY TO CITIZENS

4106. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has recently issued a fresh travel advisory cautioning Indian citizens against visiting large parts of Iraq in view of the deteriorating security situation in that country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of visas issued to Indian citizens to visit Iraq during the last six months;
- (d) whether the Union Government provide adequate assistance and help to those Indian citizens who are already staying there and those who proceeded to Iraq before the issue of the travel advisory;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a) & (b) Yes. A Travel Advisory was issued on 18 February, 2020 advising Indian citizens against visit to five provinces of Nineveh, Salahuddin, Diyala, Anbar and Kirkuk in Iraq as these remained unsafe due to the prevailing security situation. A copy of the travel advisory is enclosed.
- (c) Ministry has no information on visas issued by the Government of Iraq.
- (d) & (e) Yes. Our Embassy in Baghdad and the Consulate General in Erbil extend all the necessary assistance to Indians living in various parts of Iraq.
- (f) Not applicable.

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR INDIAN NATIONALS TRAVELLING TO IRAQ

February 18, 2020

In the wake of the precarious situation then developing in Iraq after the ISIS terrorists had taken over large Iraqi territories, a Travel Advisory was issued on 15 June, 2014 cautioning Indian nationals to avoid all travel to Iraq, until further notification. As the local security situation improved over the time, another Travel Advisory was issued on 04 February, 2019 allowing Indian nationals to consider travelling to the country except five Provinces as those remained affected by terrorism and violence.

A fresh Travel Advisory was issued on 08 January, 2020 due to the escalation of tension, cautioning Indian nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to and within Iraq, until further notification, while assuring that our Embassy in Baghdad and Consulate in Erbil will continue to function normally to provide all services to Indians residing in Iraq.

In modification and consolidation of the previous advisories for Indian nationals wishing to travel to Iraq, the following Travel Advisory for their intended visit to different areas in Iraq will take immediate effect:

- (i) Indian nationals may now consider travelling to the country except to the five Provinces of Iraq, namely Nineveh(Capital Mosul); Salahuddin (Capital Tikrit); Diyala (Capital Baquba); Anbar (Capital Ramadi) and Kirkuk.
- (ii) Indian nationals are advised not to travel to the above listed five Provinces in Iraq as these remain unsafe due to the prevailing security situation.
- (iii) Those Indian nationals wishing to travel for employment and already having work permits and appropriate visas may return to their jobs in the safe areas in Iraq other than those listed above as unsafe areas, and inform the Embassy of India in Baghdad or Consulate General of India in Erbil prior to travelling to Iraq.
- (iv) Those Indian nationals wishing to travel for religious purposes, and having appropriate visa and return air-ticket, may also travel for pilgrimage to the holy places of Najaf and Karbala. They should not extend their religious pilgrimage to the neighbouring Syria and not travel by road from Iraq to Syria or vice-versa.

**New Delhi
February 18, 2020**
