

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020**

TAMILS STRANDED IN GULF

540. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many Indians including a large number of Tamils are stranded in Gulf and East Asian countries due to inordinate delay in bringing them back home;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bring them back home timely?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Government launched Vande Bharat Mission on 07 May 2020, immediately after lockdown was eased, for repatriation of Indian citizens stranded in foreign countries on account of Covid-19. To date, 13 lakh Indians have returned home by air, ship and land routes. This includes 85,348 Tamilians globally. Vande Bharat Mission is currently in Phase 6 including flights by Air India and other Indian airlines and is supplemented with charters and air bubble arrangements with nine countries.

The details of Tamil repatriation from Gulf and East Asia is as follows:

Countries	No. of Tamils Registered	Total No. of Tamils repatriated
Bahrain	3700	2100
Iraq	739	739
Oman	9578	7100
Qatar	13,366	7300
Saudi Arabia	14,000	6,500
UAE	66,267	25,572
Malaysia	4679	4679
Singapore	11,114	4000
Philippines	10,830	8011
Japan	558	382
Republic of Korea	46	46
Thailand	436	196

**13,200 Tamils registered for repatriation from Kuwait and currently there is no pendency.*
