

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.611
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020**

JOB LOSS DUE TO COVID-19

611. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who lost their job and came back to India from various countries due to COVID-19;
- (b) whether the Government had formulated any action plan for these people;
- (c) if so, the details, thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the welfare and safety of Indian nationals abroad. To facilitate return of Indian nationals stranded in various countries due to restriction imposed in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the Vande Bharat Mission commenced on 7 May 2020. Since then, more than 13, 74, 237 Indians (as on 10 September 2020) have returned to India via air, land and sea. Of them, 3, 08, 099 were workers, not all of them had lost their jobs, but returned on account of Covid-19 situation. Based on the data shared by the passengers with our Missions, no. of workers who have returned to India are attached country wise at Annexure-I. In recent months, Indians have started to return to the Gulf and other countries to rejoin their jobs or for family reunions.

(b) & (c) With the aim of making the best of our skilled workforce returning to the country due to the ongoing pandemic, the Government of India launched an initiative SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the Vande Bharat Mission. SWADES, a joint initiative of the

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs, aimed to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skill sets and experience to tap into and fulfill demand of Indian and foreign companies. It was aimed at all the citizens from all over the world, across ECR and ECNR categories. This was done to facilitate reintegration of migrant workers into the labour market and promote effective employment opportunities. For facilitating employment opportunities, details of SWADES registrations have been integrated with Skill India's ASEEM (Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping) portal which was launched on 10 July 2020. Further, all data regarding Indians returning under Vande Bharat Mission was also shared with relevant State Governments, on a real time basis.

(d) Does not arise.

Annexure-I for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.611

Country	Workers
Afghanistan	0
Algeria	584
Anguilla	193
Argentina	0
Armenia	12
Australia	405
Bahrain	14920
Bangladesh	1517
Barbados	0
Belarus	1
Belgium	32
Benin	83
Botswana	60
Brazil	19
Brunei Darussalam	88

Bulgaria	6
Burundi	0
Cambodia	99
Cameroon	37
Canada	951
Chad	5
Chile	6
China	184
Colombia	1
Congo Republic of	372
Cote dlvoire	270
Cyprus	24
Czech Republic	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	365
Denmark	1
Djibouti	11
Egypt	92
Eritrea	29
Ethiopia	139
Fiji	9
Finland	8
France	613
Georgia	9
Germany	328
Ghana	339
Guatemala	0
Guinea	0
Hungary	0
Indonesia	517
Iran	156
Iraq	3960
Ireland	4
Israel	73
Italy	565
Jamaica	266
Japan	125
Jordan	212
Kazakhstan	584
Kenya	78
Korea Republic of (South)	1
Kuwait	44248
Kyrgyzstan	28
Lebanon	503

Madagascar	79
Malawi	53
Malaysia	149
Maldives	4584
Malta	57
Mauritania	139
Mauritius	246
Mexico	8
Morocco	8
Mozambique	131
Myanmar	5
Nepal	3
Netherlands	78
New Zeland	205
Nigeria	2207
Norway	243
Oman	50536
Papua New Guinea	0
Philippines	204
Poland	119
Portugal	24
Qatar	30509
Russia	262
Rwanda	0
Saudi Arabia	49000
Senegal	84
Seychelles	215
Sierra Leone	188
Singapore	5043
Somalia	52
South Africa	261
South Korea	5
South Sudan	2
Spain	5
Sri Lanka	1268
Sudan	105
Suriname	0
Sweden	122
Switzerland	0
Tajikistan	18
Tanzania	167
Thailand	39
Togo	18

Trinidad and Tobago	1
Tunisia	1
Turkey	34
UAE	84497
Uganda	247
Ukraine	41
United Kingdom	1098
USA	2390
Uzbekistan	82
Venezuela	0
Vietnam	135
Zambia	0
Total	308099
