

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021**

INDIAN CITIZENS STRANDED ABROAD

*234. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government conducted International flight operations from various foreign countries to India during the Covid pandemic era, free of cost and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the existing international flights to India are with any concession for the persons who lost their jobs, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of petitions received from Indian citizens stranded abroad, month-wise and country-wise starting from March 2020 including the details of the States to which they belong; and
- (d) whether the Government has arranged flights from foreign countries for Indian citizens stranded abroad and if so, the details of the countries and the number of flights, number of persons who travelled free of cost and the number who paid with a special focus on NRIs who have lost their jobs in Middle East as a result of Covid -19 pandemic?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)**

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *234 REGARDING "INDIAN CITIZENS STRANDED ABROAD" TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021.

(a) During the initial phases of the pandemic, several flights were operated by the Government of India, free of cost, for the evacuation of Indians stranded in China, Italy and Iran.

Three special flights on January 31, February 1 and February 26, 2020 were operated to evacuate 766 persons, which included 723 Indian nationals and 43 foreign nationals from the city of Wuhan as well as other cities of Hubei Province in China.

From Iran, 58 stranded Indian nationals were repatriated on 10 March 2020 by Indian Air Force's C17 Globemaster.

From Italy, two Air India special flights were arranged to evacuate 411 Indian nationals, mostly comprising of students, elderly and medically ill from Milan and Rome in March 2020.

(b) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, normal international travel services remain suspended. International air travel to and from India is taking place through special arrangements, including air bubbles and the Vande Bharat Mission, which are commercial in nature. Our Missions arrange for the welfare of Indian nationals, where required, including through Indian community associations. In some cases, arrangements are also made for flight tickets, boarding and lodging and emergency medical assistance under the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

(c) to (d) A large number of requests were received by Indians nationals abroad for repatriation to India. Government of India commenced operations under the Vande Bharat Mission on May 7, 2020 to facilitate return of stranded Indian nationals abroad in a phased manner. The Vande Bharat Mission is the largest and most complex exercise ever undertaken by the government for repatriation of its nationals stranded overseas. As on 30 April'21, nearly 60 lakh people have returned under the Vande Bharat Mission, as per the information available with this Ministry. The details are at Annexure-I. The state and country wise information, as available with this Ministry is at Annexure-II.

Details of Arrivals under the Vande Bharat Mission

Service	Number of flights/ships	Number of passengers
AIR INDIA and AIR INDIA EXP	12076	1879968
DEPORTEE	17	2591
AMNESTY	56	7344
CHARTERED	16844	3692216
OTHER FOREIGN CARRIERS	33	4007
NAVAL SHIPS	8	3987
LAND BORDER CROSSINGS	0	502151
TOTAL	29034	6092264

Details of Arrivals under Vande Bharat Mission as on 30 April 2021**Total number repatriated: 60,92,264****Of which via land: 5,021,51; Ship: 3987****State wise number of Arrivals as on 30.04.2021**

STATE WISE NUMBER OF REPATRIATED INDIANS TILL 30.04.2021	
STATE	NO. OF REPATRIATED INDIANS
A & N ISLANDS	45
ANDHRA PRADESH	43758
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	41
ASSAM	1005
BIHAR	34660
CHANDIGARH	5937
CHHATTISGARH	878
D & N HAVELI	40
DAMAN AND DIU	132
DELHI	1335919
GOA	27627
GUJARAT	139937
HARYANA	6423
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1570
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	5162
JHARKHAND	2249
KARNATAKA	366451
KERALA	1410275
LADAKH	486
LAKSHADWEEP	866
MADHYA PRADESH	3329
MAHARASHTRA	589222
MANIPUR	393
MEGHALAYA	87
MIZORAM	126
NAGALAND	81
ODISHA	10717
PUDUCHERRY	1085
PUNJAB	116222
RAJASTHAN	98691
SIKKIM	90
TAMIL NADU	564015
TELANGANA	365249
TRIPURA	545
UTTAR PRADESH	367286
UTTARANCHAL	2877
WEST BENGAL	89955
TOTAL	5593431

Country wise number of Arrivals as on 30.04.2021

COUNTRY WISE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS TILL 30.04.2021	
COUNTRY	NUMBER
AFGHANISTAN	35869
ALGERIA	1338
ANGOLA	770
ARMENIA	722
AUSTRALIA	12903
AUSTRIA	4
AZERBAIJAN	186
BAHRAIN	78128
BANGLADESH	62499
BARBADOS	115
BELARUS	232
BELGIUM	296
BHUTAN	3186
BRAZIL	510
BRUNEI	693
BULGARIA	698
CAMBODIA	596
CANADA	96900
CHINA	1367
CROATIA	3
DENMARK	55
DJIBOUTI	326
EGYPT	1892
ESTONIA	6
ETHIOPIA	17908
FIJI	5
FINLAND	238
FRANCE	72492
GEORGIA	4293
GERMANY	99926
GHANA	302
GREECE	164
HONG KONG	3306
HUNGARY	9
INDONESIA	5384
IRAN	6935
IRAQ	15072
IRELAND	485
ISRAEL	2036
ITALY	14892
JAPAN	14575
JORDAN	838
KAZAKHSTAN	3965
KENYA	15281

KUWAIT	226777
KYRGYZSTAN	10303
LAOS	427
LATVIA	5
LEBANON	1122
MADAGASCAR	84
MALAYSIA	52767
MALDIVES	122161
MALI	237
MALTA	256
MAURITIUS	2647
MEXICO	228
MOLDOVA	243
MONGOLIA	80
MOROCCO	99
MYANMAR	3265
NEPAL	26900
NETHERLANDS	28341
NEW ZEALAND	1897
NIGERIA	6501
NORWAY	267
OMAN	329139
OTHERS	21611
PAKISTAN	683
PHILIPPINES	8484
POLAND	342
PORTUGAL	54
QATAR	367078
ROMANIA	8
RUSSIA	15115
RWANDA	4697
SAUDI ARABIA	479103
SCOTLAND	38
SEYCHELLES	2826
SINGAPORE	89687
SOUTH AFRICA	1161
SOUTH KOREA	5248
SPAIN	1117
SRI LANKA	23350
SUDAN	125
SWEDEN	1270
SWITZERLAND	33
SYRIA	157
TAIWAN	144
TAJKISTAN	2814
TANZANIA	9436
THAILAND	7603
TUNISIA	25
TURKEY	3081
TURKMENISTAN	234
UKRAINE	9062

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2544288
UNITED KINGDOM	197730
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	397542
UZBEKISTAN	4777
VIETNAM	1966
YEMEN	1311
ZIMBABWE	5
TOTAL	5593351
