

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021**

AIR BUBBLE AGREEMENT

2735. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to enter into an air bubble agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any data regarding reverse migration of Indians in Gulf region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes. Government has discussed finalisation of a draft Air Bubble arrangement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which would enable people from both countries to undertake travel between India and Saudi Arabia during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As Saudi Arabia has suspended travel of incoming passengers from India due to the pandemic, negotiations on the Air Bubble arrangement are currently on hold. The issue continues to be taken up by Government with Saudi Arabia.

(c) & (d) As per estimates, about seven lakh sixteen thousand Indian workers from six Gulf countries have returned to India, under the Vande Bharat Mission, during the Covid Pandemic.
