

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.957  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2021**

**NEW REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SCHEME**

**957. SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian expatriates in Afghanistan as on the date of the US withdrawal in 2021;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce new rehabilitation and employment schemes for the returnees from Afghanistan, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of expatriates left in Afghanistan and the measures taken by the Government for their protection?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) It is estimated that in early 2021, there were around 5,000 Indians working in Afghanistan including those employed by the United Nations, and other countries. In view of the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, the Government of India issued several security advisories from April 2021 onwards. As a result, many Indian nationals had left Afghanistan.

After 15 August 2021, under the Government of India's "Operation Devi Shakti", 438 Indians were evacuated from Afghanistan. A few Indians, who had contacted the Special Afghanistan Cell and desired to be evacuated, still remain stranded. The Special Afghanistan Cell is in touch with these remaining Indians.

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