

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 227
(To be answered on the 17th March 2022)**

RETURN OF AIR INDIA FLIGHT FROM UKRAINE

***227. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that an Air India flight had to return back midway in the morning hours of 24 February, 2022 after Ukraine closed its airspace for commercial flights;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is also true that neither Ukraine nor Russia allowed Air India flights to land in their countries and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(a) to (c) Air India operated the first evacuation flight from Kyiv, Ukraine to Delhi on 22.02.2022 and brought back 242 Indian nationals. Ukraine closed its airspace in the morning of 24.02.2022. As a result, the second Air India flight destined for Kyiv was forced to turn back midway on 24.02.2022 and had to return to Delhi.

Due to closure of Ukrainian airspace, currently Indian carriers cannot operate to Ukraine. However, Air India is operating to/from Russia under the India - Russia air bubble arrangement. Evacuation operations have been carried out from countries adjoining Ukraine viz. Romania, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
