GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1690 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

DRONE ATTACK IN UAE

1690. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent drone attack in United Arab Emirates (UAE) in which two Indian nationals have been killed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with UAE authorities and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to provide protection to Indian nationals abroad from such terror attacks in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) On 17 January 2022, there was a terror attack on an oil storage depot in Musaffah area close to Abu Dhabi in which three people, including two Indian nationals, lost their lives. Both deceased Indian nationals belonged to the State of Punjab. Of the six injured, 2 were Indian nationals, who were immediately treated for injuries.

(c) & (d) On 18 January 2022, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar received a telephone call from the Foreign Minister of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan to convey the Government of UAE's deepest condolences to the Government of India on the death of two Indian nationals. EAM condemned the terror attack in the strongest terms and appreciated the immediate assistance provided by the UAE authorities in responding to the tragic incident. EAM also conveyed India's strong solidarity with UAE in the face of such an attack.

Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi has worked closely with the UAE authorities, including officials from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), for repatriation of the mortal remains of the two deceased Indian nationals. The mortal remains were repatriated on 21 January 2022 and cremation was completed on the same day in their respective home towns.

Government of India accords the highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian citizens abroad. Government continues to keep a close watch on developments, issues advisories whenever required and engages with the authorities of other countries to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad.