

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3813
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2022**

SPECIAL CONSULATE OFFICE IN MOLDOVA

3813. SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Government has opened a special consulate office in Moldova to help stranded Indians crossing to Moldova and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Indian Mission endorsed Indian nationals including students to leave Kyiv and Kharkiv during war at their own risk and passage/transportation;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI]**

(a) No. However, a team of MEA officials was deployed at the Moldova-Ukraine border to facilitate the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine further through Romania.

(b) & (c) Kyiv and Kharkiv were active conflict zones and were facing shelling and aerial strikes. Evacuation from Kyiv and Kharkiv was particularly challenging as the students had to be moved out from their shelters towards the western borders of Ukraine. Our Embassy in Ukraine along with the help of education consultants and the Rectors of Ukrainian universities facilitated the movement of the stranded Indians from Kyiv by buses and trains. Many students from Kharkiv were advised to move to Pesochin in view of anticipated escalation of hostilities as it was deemed a safer zone and for a subsequent ferrying by buses to the western borders. Special teams of diplomats were sent to Ukraine and to the borders with neighbouring countries to facilitate the evacuation process. The Indian Embassy's constant coordination with Ukrainian authorities also contributed to train and bus arrangements in many cases.
