GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2202

TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022

ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS IN UKRAINE

2202. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

- (a) the stand of Indian Government on the Russia-Ukraine war;
- (b) the diplomatic efforts made by the Government to help Indians and defuse war situation in Russia/Ukraine; and
- (c) whether the Indian High Commission in Kiev has restored full operations and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI]

(a) & (b) Since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, India has consistently called for immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to the violence. India has called upon both sides to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue, and also expressed its support for all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

Regarding evacuation of Indian citizens, Prime Minister spoke to the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine on multiple occasions. Prime Minister specifically took up the issue of safe evacuation of Indian nationals, especially from Kharkiv and Sumy. Prime Minister also spoke to the Prime Ministers of Romania, Slovak Republic and Hungary and the President of Poland to seek their support for facilitation of transit of Indian nationals through their countries. External Affairs Minister was also in constant touch with his counterparts from Russia and Ukraine for similar reasons. Foreign Secretary maintained contact with Ambassadors of Russia and Ukraine in New Delhi, while Ambassadors in Kyiv and Moscow followed up in their respective capitals.

(c) Indian Embassy in Ukraine was temporarily relocated to Warsaw on March 13, 2022. With effect from May 17, 2022, Indian Embassy in Ukraine has restored full operation albeit with a reduced strength in consonance with the requirement.
