GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2266
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022

INDIANS HELD IN FAKE CASES ABROAD

2266.   SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has any data about the Indians who are stuck in foreign countries in fake cases, if so, the details thereof along with the steps are taken by the Government to bring them back to India;

(b)   whether the Government is taking up the matter with the concerned Embassies on regular basis to extend help to Indians who are stuck in foreign countries in fake cases; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c)   The Government attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indians in foreign countries. Indian Missions/Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor the incidents of Indian nationals stuck in foreign countries for violation/alleged violation of local laws.

As soon as the information about an Indian national in distress is received by an Indian Mission/Post, it immediately gets in touch with the Indian national, local Foreign Office and other concerned local authorities, as the case may be, to ascertain the facts of the case, confirm his Indian nationality and ensure his welfare.

Irrespective of whether the case is fake or not, distressed Indian nationals are provided all possible consular assistance. Indian Missions/Posts also assist in providing legal aid wherever needed. Missions/Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizeable numbers. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is set up in Indian Missions/Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations on a means tested basis in deserving cases. The support extended under ICWF includes financial assistance to Indian nationals for legal aid as well as travel documents / air tickets.

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