

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-788

ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2024

EVACUATION PROGRAMMES FOR INDIANS

788. SHRI TATKARE SUNIL DATTATREY

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any evacuation programmes for safe return of Indian citizens from other countries in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to appoint special officers at sensitive Indian embassies for facing any emergency situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) Vande Bharat Mission: 3.20 crore people (disembarkation-1.60 crore & embarkation 1.60 crore) have been facilitated during COVID under “Vande Bharat Mission” including the Air Bubble arrangements till March 2022.

Operation Devi Shakti: A total of 669 individuals have been evacuated from Afghanistan under “Operation Devi Shakti” by 6 IAF and Air India flights. This comprises 448 Indians and 206 Afghans, which includes members of the Afghan Hindu/Sikh community and 15 foreign nationals.

Operation Ganga: 18,282 Indian nationals mainly students were brought back to India from Ukraine at Government of India's cost by 90 flights, of which 76 were commercial flights and 14 IAF flights in February and March 2022.

Operation Kaveri: 4,097 people (including 136 foreigners) were brought back to India from Sudan with the help of 18 IAF sorties, 5 trips of Indian Navy ships and 20 commercial flights at Government of India’s cost under “Operation Kaveri”. This includes 108 Indian nationals moved through Sudan’s land borders with Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Operation Ajay: A total of 1343 people including 1309 Indian nationals, 14 OCI card holders and 20 Nepalese have returned to India from Israel in 6 special flights under Operation Ajay at Government of India’s cost.

Operation Indravati: The operation was launched in March 2024 to evacuate Indian nationals from Haiti amidst civil unrest. A total of 17 Indian nationals were safely evacuated from Haiti to Dominican Republic by helicopters.

Humanitarian Airlift Operation from Kuwait: A major fire incident occurred in a labour housing facility in Kuwait on 12 June 2024, in which 45

Indians lost their lives. The mortal remains of the 45 deceased Indian nationals were brought back to India from Kuwait by a special IAF C-130 aircraft.

(c & d) All Indian Missions/Consulates have a Consular wing, which is headed by a Consular officer, to deal with emergency situations.
