

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 782

ANSWERED ON- 29/11/2024

ASSISTANCE DURING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES FOR INDIANS

ABROAD

782. SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING

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

- (a) Whether there is any policy regarding providing assistance to Indians, who have not yet received citizenship of their host countries, during medical emergencies including assistance in bringing mortal remains of such deceased Indian nationals back to India;**
- (b) If so, the details thereof including the mechanism put in place to access such assistance;**
- (c) If not, the manner in which the Government deals with such humanitarian issues;**
- (d) Whether the Government is planning to formulate any such policy in the near future with budgetary allocations; and**
- (e) If so, the details thereof along with draft policy and the timeline for implementing the policy?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS**

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to e) Assistance to Indian citizens, is provided under Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) residing in the host country or those in distress while visiting a foreign country. ICWF has already been set up in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to meet the contingency expenditure incurred by them for carrying out various on-site welfare activities for Overseas Indian citizens on a means-tested basis. The ICWF guidelines have been comprehensively revised w.e.f. September 1, 2017. The revised guidelines have considerably expanded the scope of on-site welfare activities for the benefit of distressed Indian nationals that could be extended through the Fund. The guidelines cover three key areas namely Assisting Overseas Indian nationals in distress situations (Boarding and Lodging, Air passage, Legal Assistance, Emergency Medical Care, Transportation of Mortal Remains), Community Welfare activities and Improvement in Consular services. They now also include provisions for setting of legal panels in countries with sizeable Indian diaspora, payment of fines/penalty for petty crimes for release of prisoners and

assistance to distressed Indian women abroad. When brought to the notice of the Indian Mission/Post abroad, it initiates, oversees and arranges assistance under ICWF.
