

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3516

ANSWERED ON- 21/03/2025

CHARGES FOR DEPORTATION OF INDIANS

3516 SHRI MANISH TEWARI

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

(a) whether the Union Government has paid any charges per person as deportation costs for Indian nationals recently deported by the United States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether due process under U.S. immigration law, during expedited removal proceedings, was followed for these deported Indian nationals, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has raised any concerns with U.S. authorities regarding Indian deportees being handcuffed, shackled and treated in a manner that undermines their basic human dignity and rights, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi has raised this issue during his recent discussions with President Donald Trump in

Washington D.C., if so, the details of the discussions and any assurances received thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) No.

(b to d) Since January 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) vertical has been carrying out deportation operations as part of the larger "National Security initiative" led by the U.S. White House – National Security Council (NSC). The individuals that have been deported in this operation were placed under "expedited removal" process, wherein a determination of inadmissibility can be made by the immigration officer without having to go through an immigration judge in the U.S. The Ministry of External Affairs remains engaged with the U.S. side regarding the humane treatment of deportees during deportation operations. The Ministry has strongly registered its concerns with the U.S. authorities on the treatment meted out to deportees on the flight that landed on February 5th, particularly with respect to use of shackles, especially on women.

It may be noted that the U.S. Standard Operating Procedure to organize and execute deportations effective from November 2012

calls for the use of restraints on deportees. The U.S. authorities have conveyed that restraints are applied to ensure the safety and security of the deportation mission. While women and minors are generally not shackled, the flight officer in charge of a deportation flight has the final say on the matter. The U.S. side has confirmed that no women or children were restrained on the deportation flights that landed in India on February 15th and 16th respectively. This has been confirmed and recorded by our agencies after interviewing the deportees on their arrival in India.

The need to promote safe, orderly and legal migration while cracking down on illegal immigration networks was discussed during the recent visit of Prime Minister to the U.S. on 12-13 February 2025. India's consistent stance against illegal immigration while seeking humane treatment of deportees was reiterated. Both sides acknowledged the need to cooperate closely in aggressively addressing illegal immigration and human trafficking by taking strong action against bad actors, criminal facilitators, and illegal immigration networks.
