

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4635

ANSWERED ON- 28/03/2025

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM US

4635. MR PATHAN YUSUF

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has offered to repatriate 18,000 illegal Indian immigrants from the United States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the manner in which this initiative align with our broader immigration policies; and

(c) the measures being implemented to ensure the welfare and reintegration of these returnees?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) It is the obligation of all countries to take back their nationals, if they are found to be living illegally abroad. This is however subject to an unambiguous verification of their nationality.

This is not a policy that is practiced only by India; it is a generally accepted principle in international relations.

Since January 2025 till date, a total of 636 Indian nationals have been deported to India from the U.S. Of these, 341 arrived on chartered flights, 55 arrived via Panama on commercial flights, and 240 arrived on separate commercial flights.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities have shared with us information pertaining to an additional 295 individuals who are detained in their custody with final orders of removal from the U.S. The Ministry, along with other concerned agencies, is currently verifying the details for these 295 individuals.

It's the policy of the Government of India to negotiate mutually advantageous and secure mobility frameworks with other countries that allows for streamlining avenues for legal mobility of students and professionals, and facilitating short-term tourist and business travel, while also addressing illegal immigration and human trafficking by taking strong action against the bad actors, criminal facilitators, and illegal immigration networks.

All necessary assistance to Indian nationals, including to the returnees, is being provided by the Government as per extant rules.
