

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4638

ANSWERED ON- 28/03/2025

PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONSULAR SERVICES

4638 SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH

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

(a) whether the Government has any plans to establish new consular services in different countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of new Indian consulates and embassies proposed or recently established, along with their locations and expected date of commencement;

(c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take steps to set up new consular services in Russia, Timor-Leste, Paraguay, or any other countries and if so, the details of such initiatives;

(d) whether any State Governments, Member of Parliament or Indian diaspora organizations have requested new consular offices in specific

regions and if so, the details of such requests and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve efficiency, digital accessibility and emergency support for Indian citizens through consular services globally?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) The details of new Indian consulates and embassies proposed or recently established are as follows:

In 2024, new Embassies have been opened in Riga (Latvia), Tbilisi (Georgia), Tirana (Albania), Libreville (Gabon), Dili (Timor Leste) and La Paz (Bolivia). New Consulates have been opened in Brisbane (Australia), Marseille (France), Barcelona (Spain) and Auckland (New Zealand).

In 2025, new Consulates have been opened in Manchester and Belfast (United Kingdom).

(e) The Government has taken several steps to enhance consular services for Indian nationals abroad, through Indian Missions/ Posts abroad on priority basis. Grievances are responded through various channels like calls, walk-ins, e-mails, social media, 24x7 Helplines and Open Houses. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSKs) have been set up at Dubai, Sharjah, Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuala Lumpur to provide assistance to Indian workers abroad. Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals have also been set up at some Missions/Posts. Mission officials visit immigration offices and labour camps to address the complaints of Indian workers. Financial assistance to distressed Indians, if necessary, is provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). During emergency or crisis situations, our Missions/Posts abroad pro-actively help distressed/stranded Indian nationals in terms of providing food, shelter, medicine and helping their return to India.
