

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4687
ANSWERED ON - 28/03/2025

RELEASE AND SAFETY OF DETAINED INDIAN NATIONALS IN RUSSIA

4687 SHRI HIBI EDEN

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

(a) whether the Government has data of the total number of identified Indian nationals who were detained by the Russian Army and if so, the details thereof including the date of their identification;

(b) whether the Government has data of the dates of repatriation to India for those Indian nationals who have been released so far, if so, the details thereof including specific arrangements, if any, made for their return;

(c) whether there are any applications still pending for the release of Indian nationals held by the Russian Army, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is true that approximately sixteen Indian nationals still remain in the custody of the Russian Army, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has secured/fixed any timeline or commitment from the Russian authorities regarding the expected date for the release of the remaining Indian nationals, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) As per information available, there were 127 Indian nationals in the Russian armed forces, out of which, the services of 97 individuals were discontinued, as a result of sustained engagement, including at the highest levels, between the Indian and Russian Governments on this matter. Following the discontinuation of service of Indian nationals in the Russian armed forces, the Indian Mission/Posts in Russia assisted them in their return to India, including through facilitation of travel documents and providing air tickets, wherever required.

According to available information, 18 Indian nationals remain in the Russian armed forces, out of which 16 individuals have been reported missing by the Russian side. The Russian authorities concerned have been urged to provide an update on such individuals and also ensure their safety, well-being and early discharge. In August 2024, the Russian side announced that the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has stopped admitting Indian nationals in its armed forces since April 2024.
