

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3244

ANSWERED ON - 08/08/2025

REPATRIATION OF INDIAN CITIZENS

†3244. SHRI AMRA RAM

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US Government repatriated Indian citizens to India in handcuffs and shackles in military aircraft, if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (b) whether this has caused harm to the country's reputation, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether this matter was raised with the US Government, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the reasons for not sending our own aircraft for bringing back our citizens while the smaller countries did so; and**
- (e) the reasons for not allowing the Media to meet such citizens?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to e) Beginning 20 January 2025, the U.S. Administration carried out deportation operations to many countries as part of the larger "National Security initiative" led by the White House National Security Council (NSC).

The U.S. is deporting only those individuals who have been apprehended for violating the U.S. immigration laws. 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 practiced only by India; it is a generally accepted principle in international relations.

The Ministry of External Affairs remains engaged with the U.S. side regarding the humane treatment of deportees during deportation operations. The Ministry had strongly registered its concerns with the U.S. authorities on the treatment meted out to deportees on the flight that landed on 5 February, particularly with respect to use of shackles, especially on women. The U.S. side has confirmed that no women or children were restrained on the deportation flights that

landed in India after 15th February 2025. This Ministry has received no complaints regarding use of restraints on deportees on subsequent flights. The U.S. has recently been deporting Indian nationals on commercial flights and dedicated passenger charter services.

Illegal migration is often linked to a broader network of unlawful activities. The Government of India remains firmly committed to identifying and dismantling the ecosystem that enables such migration, including unscrupulous agents, human trafficking rackets, and other criminal elements involved in facilitating illegal immigration.

The issue of deportation has received wide coverage in both print and visual media in India. Several deported individuals have spoken to the media, recounting their experiences in detail.
