GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2181

ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2025

MEDICAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS

2181. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D

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

- (a) whether the Government provides assistance to Indian citizens who face medical emergencies while living, working or travelling abroad, if so, the details of the policies, guidelines and standard operating procedures governing such assistance;
- (b) the mechanism through which Indian Missions and Posts extend support in medical emergencies, including the availability of emergency helplines, liaison with hospitals, facilitation of medical evacuation or repatriation and informing family members, especially for individuals from Kallakurichi Lok Sabha constituency;

- (c) the number of medical emergency cases handled by Indian Embassies,

 High Commissions and Consulates during the last three years, country-wise

 and year-wise;
- (d) whether financial assistance is provided to Indians in distress during serious medical emergencies, including from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), during the last three years, if so, the details of amount disbursed; and
- (e) the steps being taken to strengthen support systems for Indian migrant workers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a & b) Indian Missions/Posts abroad extend all possible medical assistance to the Indian citizens who face medical emergencies abroad. The nature of help extended includes:
- i) Indian nationals in need of emergency assistance, including in case of emergencies, have multiple channels for reaching out to the Indian Embassy/Consulate anytime. The Embassy/Consulate operates 24X7 helplines and Whatsapp numbers. The Embassy/Consulate also promptly

respond to emergency situations posted in social media tagging the Missions' social media handles.

- ii) In situations where the Indian nationals are not having valid medical insurance or support from the employer and they are not able to bear the medical expenses on their own, the Embassy/Consulate provides assistance either by paying for the expenses from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) or, wherever possible, requesting the hospital or concerned local authorities to waive off the medical bills.
- iii) Wherever possible, the Embassy/Consulate also connects the Indian nationals in need of medical assistance with medical centres and other community social workers who provide assistance on pro-bono basis.
- iv) The Embassy/Consulate reaches out to the hospital, and also makes physical visits depending upon the situation, to take updates on the medical condition and feasibility of discharge or repatriation to India. The Embassy/Consulate coordinates with the family members of the patient.
- v) The Embassy/Consulate helps in medical repatriation, including in wheel chair, medical stretcher and air ambulance, of Indian nationals by actively coordinating with the patient's family members, the foreign employer, the hospital, the airlines, and the local authorities.

- vi) In case the cost of repatriation is not the responsibility of the sponsor (in cases of illegal residency status) but the patient or the family is not able to bear the expense, the Embassy arranges the repatriation expense through ICWF.
- vii) In case of Indian nationals in need of urgent medical repatriation but facing illegal residency status or travel ban, the Embassy/Consulate proactively works to secure no objection or exit permit from the local government authorities.
- (c & d) The requisite details of medical assistance provided from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in the last three years by Indian Missions abroad are given in Annexure-A.
- (e) The Government has established various mechanisms to enable Indians including emigrant workers abroad to reach out in case they need any assistance or to register any grievances. They can contact the Missions/Posts through various channels like walk-in, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portals like MADAD, CPGRAMS, eMigrate, social media, toll free helplines, whatsapp numbers and Missions/Posts have also launched mobile Apps to enable Indian

nationals to contact respective Indian Missions/Posts when in distress or in emergency situation.

Our Missions/Posts abroad also utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide the following services/assistance to the Indian diaspora in distress on a means tested basis:

- (i) Transportation of mortal remains to India or cremation with the consent of the family;
- (ii) Emergency medical care;
- (iii) Legal assistance;
- (iv) Boarding and lodging; and
- (v) Air passage for stranded Indians

Furthermore, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in New Delhi and at Dubai (UAE), Riyadh & Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide assistance, guidance and counselling to Indians in distress. Consular camps and Open Houses are also held by Indian Missions/Posts to reach out to the Indian nationals abroad who might need any assistance/guidance from the Government.

Annexure A

Beneficiaries of Emergency Medical Care of Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) from 2022 to 2025(till June)

		2022	2023	2024	2025 (till June)
SI. No.	Country	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Afghanistan	0	0	0	0
2	Algeria	0	0	0	0
3	Angola	0	0	0	0
4	Argentina	0	0	0	0
5	Armenia	0	0	0	0
6	Australia	2	0	1	0
7	Austria	0	0	0	0
8	Azerbaijan	0	1	0	0
9	Bahrain	1	0	0	0
10	Bangladesh	3	0	0	0
11	Belarus	0	0	0	0
12	Belgium	0	0	0	0
13	Bhutan	0	0	0	0
14	Botswana	1	0	0	0
15	Brazil	0	0	0	0
16	Brunei darussalam	0	0	0	0
17	Bulgaria	0	0	0	0
18	Burkina Faso	0	0	0	0
19	Cambodia	0	0	1	3
20	Cameroon	0	0	0	0
21	Canada	0	1	0	0
22	Chile	0	0	0	0
23	China	1	1	1	0
24	Colombia	0	0	0	0

25	Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0
26	Croatia	0	0	0	0
27	Cuba	0	0	0	0
28	Cyprus	0	0	0	0
29	Czech Republic	1	1	0	0
30	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0	7	0	0
31	Denmark	0	0	0	0
32	Djibouti	0	0	0	0
33	Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0
34	Egypt	0	0	1	0
35	Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0
36	Eritrea	0	0	0	0
37	Estonia	0	0	0	0
38	Ethiopia	0	0	0	1
39	Fiji	0	0	0	0
40	Finland	0	0	0	0
41	France	1	0	1	0
42	Germany	0	0	0	0
43	Ghana	0	0	1	0
44	Greece	0	0	0	0
45	Guatemala	0	0	0	0
46	Guinea	0	0	0	0
47	Guyana	0	0	0	0
48	Hungary	0	0	0	0
49	Iceland	0	0	0	0
50	Indonesia	0	0	0	0
51	Iran	2	0	0	0
52	Iraq	2	0	0	0
53	Ireland	0	0	0	0
54	Israel	0	0	0	0
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55	Italy	0	0	0	0
56	Jamaica	1	0	0	0
57	Japan	0	0	0	0
58	Jordan	1	0	0	1
59	Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0
60	Kenya	0	0	0	0
61	Kuwait	95	1	0	0
62	Kyrgystan	0	0	0	0
63	Laos	0	7	9	2
64	Lebanon	0	0	0	0
65	Liberia	0	0	0	0
66	Libya	0	0	0	0
67	Madagascar	0	0	0	0
68	Malawi	0	0	0	0
69	Malaysia	2	2	0	29
70	Maldives	0	1	0	0
71	Mali	0	0	0	0
72	Malta	0	0	0	0
73	Mauritius	0	0	0	0
74	Mexico	0	0	0	0
75	Mongolia	0	0	0	0
76	Morocco	0	0	0	0
77	Mozambique	0	0	0	0
78	Myanmar	0	1	0	0
79	Namibia	0	0	0	0
80	Nepal	0	2	16	0
81	Netherlands	0	0	0	0
82	New Zealand	1	0	0	0
83	Niger	0	0	0	0
84	Nigeria	0	0	2	0
85	North Korea	0	0	0	0

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86	Norway	0	0	0	0
87	Oman	224	136	13	28
88	Pakistan	0	0	0	0
89	Palestine	0	0	0	0
90	Panama	0	0	0	0
91	Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0
92	Paraguay	0	0	0	0
93	Peru	0	0	0	0
94	Philippines	0	1	0	0
95	Poland	2	0	0	0
96	Portugal	0	0	0	0
97	Qatar	0	0	3	1
98	Romania	0	0	0	0
99	Russia	0	0	0	0
100	Rwanda	1	4	0	0
101	Sao Tome & Principie	0	0	0	0
102	Saudi Arabia	85	74	20	4
103	Senegal	0	0	0	0
104	Serbia	0	0	0	0
105	Seychelles	0	0	0	0
106	Sierra leone	0	0	0	0
107	Singapore	0	0	0	0
108	Slovakia	0	0	0	0
109	Slovenia	0	0	0	0
110	South Africa	0	0	0	0
111	South Korea	2	0	0	0
112	South Sudan	2	0	0	1
113	Spain	9	0	0	0
114	Sri Lanka	24	4	4	6
115	Sudan	2	0	0	0
116	Suriname	0	0	0	0
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117	Swaziland	0	0	0	0
118	Sweden	0	0	0	0
119	Switzerland	0	0	0	0
120	Syria	1	0	0	0
121	Taiwan	0	0	1	0
122	Tajikistan	0	0	0	0
123	Tanzania	0	0	0	0
124	Thailand	0	1	0	0
125	Togo	0	0	0	0
126	Trinidad & Tobago	1	1	0	0
127	Tunisia	0	0	0	0
128	Turkey	0	0	0	0
129	Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0
130	UAE	19	37	32	1
131	Uganda	1	0	0	0
132	Ukraine	0	0	1	0
133	United Kingdom	0	0	0	0
	United States of				
134	America	1	0	0	0
135	Uzbekhistan	1	0	0	0
136	Venezuela	0	0	0	0
137	Vietnam	0	1	2	0
138	Yemen	0	0	0	0
139	Zambia	0	0	0	0
140	Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0
	Total	489	284	109	77
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