

The Ministry plans its engagement with Overseas Indians through the aforementioned schemes. Indian Missions/ Posts abroad also engage proactively with the Overseas Indian Community and provide necessary assistance from time to time.

Number of Indians working in Iraq

985. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any information about the number of Indians working in Iraq, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that many Indians working in conflict-prone areas in Iraq have sought Government's help to come back to the country; and

(c) if so, the number of such people sought to be evacuated and the number out of them who have been brought back and the measures that are proposed to be taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) During the last three years, emigration clearance for Iraq has been granted to 10356 workers.

(b) and (c) A total of 120 Indians stranded in conflict areas, out of estimated 210, have been evacuated so far, including 46 nurses in Tikrit. In addition, about 2200 Indian nationals in relatively safe areas have also been given assistance to return to India.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, in cooperation with the Embassy of India in Iraq is in constant contact with the Iraqi authorities regarding the evacuation of the workers willing to return to India. The requests being received through different channels like State Government organizations and individuals are being taken up instantaneously.

In coordination with the State Governments, the returnees are being facilitated to reach their respective destinations safely.