

India's bilateral relations with Iran stand on its own and are not influenced by India's relations with third countries.

Attacks on Indians in United States

383. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to rising attacks on Indians particularly Telugu speaking people working in the United States;

(b) whether Government has taken up or intends to take up the issue with the US Government; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to put in place a standard operating procedure for the Indian Missions in the US to send the bodies of the victims to India and to help the families of the victims in distress; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH] : (a) There is no evidence to suggest that attacks on Indians, particularly on Telugu speaking people, have increased in recent years, in the United States of America.

(b) Government of India regularly takes up issues pertaining to Indians living in the United States, with the US State Department and other relevant agencies of the US Government at various levels.

(c) All Indian Missions/Posts abroad, including our Mission/Posts in USA, on learning of the death of an Indian national, extend all necessary assistance to the family members/ relatives / friends of the deceased for transferring the mortal remains to India. The 'MADAD' Online Consular Grievances Monitoring System accords high priority to cases of repatriation of mortal remains. Wherever necessary, Mission officials are sent to the place of incident to liaise with the local authorities and the Indian community to seek relevant details and efforts are made to complete the process of issuance of necessary documents/ certificates, including the Death Certificate, in the shortest possible time. Whenever required, Missions/Posts also take up the matter with the local authorities for expediting the process at their end and help with documentation or take action to facilitate the transport of mortal remains of the deceased as per laid down procedure. Our Consular officers can be contacted even on closed holidays and weekends to respond to emergency requirements. The emergency telephone numbers (24x7) are prominently notified on the website of MEA as well as of our Missions/Posts.