

Bringing back of Indians from Arab countries

†1200. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with whom Government has made arrangements to bring back the Indian citizens, details thereof; and

(b) whether the Indian citizens living in Arab countries also want to return to India and are seeking help from the Government for the same and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Government of India enters into any arrangement for evacuation when there are such exigencies. It takes place when there are war like situations, disruption of State activities or threat to life of Indian citizens. There are no permanent arrangement/agreement to evacuate Indian citizens from abroad, though situation is always kept under observation.

(b) In view of volatile situation in West Asia and North Africa in recent past, the Government has evacuated Indian citizens from Iraq, Libya, Yemen and South Sudan. These all evacuations were warranted because of internal strife and war where law and order had broken down and Indian citizens faced threat to their lives.

There are 22 States which are members of League of Arab States and constitute the Arab countries in the world. So far, evacuation from three Arab countries namely, Iraq, Libya and Yemen was carried out. There are no indications that Indian citizens living in other 19 Arab countries are seeking help for evacuation as political conditions there remain normal and there are opportunities for Indian nationals to earn their livelihood and the State is able to exercise normal law and order function providing security to its citizens and guest workers like Indians living there.

Indians charged with visa fraud

1201. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently fourteen people of Indian origin are among nineteen people charged with involvement in visa fraud through fake green card marriages or by falsely making claims of being crime victims in US; and

(b) the details of the reaction by our Government?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.