

- Consent letter from next of kin of the deceased for local cremation/burial/transportation of mortal remains, duly attested by a notary.
- Copy of passport and visa pages.
- In addition to the above, other documents such as clearance and arrangements for embalming of mortal remains, clearance from local immigration/customs department, etc. are required. These procedures may differ from country to country.

While there is no undue delay in cases of natural deaths, the time taken in transporting the mortal remains to India could be longer in the case of unnatural deaths, because of local procedures involved in those countries for investigating the cause of death.

Our Missions/Posts remain in constant touch with the next of kin of the deceased Indian national to facilitate the transportation or local burial/cremation of the mortal remains in accordance with the wishes of the family of the deceased and local regulations. Our Missions/Posts also liaise with the foreign officials concerned to expedite procedures for the repatriation of mortal remains to India and extend all possible assistance to the family of the deceased.

(b) As per information available with the Ministry, mortal remains of 14,312 Indian nationals from 125 countries have been brought back to India since 2016 till May 31, 2019.

(c) Financial support to families of deceased Indian nationals for airlifting of mortal remains is made available by Indian Missions/Posts abroad in deserving cases on a means tested basis under the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

Drop in Indian students seeking admission in United Kingdom

655. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep drop in the number of Indian students seeking admission in the Universities of United Kingdom and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the matter has been taken up with Government of United Kingdom on the issue of smoother and greater students and faculty mobility between the two countries and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) As per the UK official source - the Higher Education Statistics

Agency (HESA), the number of Indian students decreased from 40,470 in 2009-10 to 16,559 in 2016-17. In 2017-18, the number of Indian students increased to 19,750. The reasons attributed mainly for the earlier decrease include withdrawal of post-study work visa, tightening of English Proficiency Requirements, comparatively costlier higher education in the UK, opening up of new opportunities in countries like Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as the opening of new global universities in India which have started attracting Indian students who used to go abroad.

(b) Issues relating to Indian students have been consistently raised by India in all bilateral discussions with the UK at various levels. The issue had been taken up by the MEA with the UK Home Office in a meeting held on 16 January, 2019. On 10 May, 2019, Foreign Secretary raised it with his British counterpart during India-UK Foreign Office Consultations. The issue was raised again at the meeting between Secretary (CPV&OIA), MEA and the Second Permanent Secretary in the UK Home Office on 14 May, 2019.

Fake agencies sending Indians abroad

†656. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many fake agencies are functioning in the country which are sending the workers for overseas employment where they are getting trapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government to put a check on the activities of such agencies; and

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted or is proposed to be constituted for monitoring such agencies and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Complaints are received from time to time by the Ministry of External Affairs from and/or on behalf of Indian emigrants who are dispatched for overseas employment fraudulently by illegal agents/fake agencies and are thereafter subjected to cheating, denial of jobs, poor working conditions, etc. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has robust grievance redressal mechanisms, including online MADAD and e-Migrate portals for registration of grievances of emigrants who have been subjected to cheating.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.