

(c) The Centre and the States have to work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest. This is considered extremely critical for achieving the high-quality and equitable public education system that is truly needed for India's future economic, social, cultural, intellectual and technological progress and growth.

**Workers rescued from abroad**

573. SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of flights sent abroad to repatriate students and blue-collared workers among others stuck abroad, up to 31st of July, 2020;
- (b) the details of workers repatriated and to which States they were repatriated; and
- (c) the justification for charging flight charges from the workers when they were in distress and penniless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Till 31 July 2020, more than 3800 flights were used to repatriate students and blue collar workers among others stuck abroad. As on 13 September 2020, the figure is more than 6400 flights.

(b) The requested details are given in the Statement (*See blow*) as per data shared by the passengers with our Missions.

(c) The Vande Bharat Mission was a repatriation exercise by way of which the Government of India facilitated the movement of stranded Indian nationals back to their home. In extreme distress cases, Missions extended assistance by paying for the air fare from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), as per the guidelines. In many cases, companies that employed workers either paid for their airfares or hired chartered flights for them at the company's expense.

***Statement****Details of workers repatriated*

Country	Workers
Afghanistan	0
Algeria	582
Anguilla	192
Argentina	0
Armenia	12
Australia	410
Bahrain	14919
Bangladesh	1517
Barbados	0
Belarus	1
Belgium	32
Benin	83
Botswana	60
Brazil	19
Brunei Darussalam	88
Bulgaria	6
Burundi	0
Cambodia	99
Cameroon	37
Canada	975
Chad	5
Chile	6
China	182
Colombia	1
Republic of Congo	372

Country	Workers
Cote d' Ivoire	270
Cyprus	24
Czech Republic	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	365
Denmark	1
Djibouti	11
Egypt	92
Eritrea	29
Ethiopia	144
Fiji	9
Finland	8
France	740
Georgia	9
Germany	358
Ghana	339
Guatemala	0
Guinea	0
Hungary	0
Indonesia	517
Iran	156
Iraq	3960
Ireland	4
Israel	73
Italy	565
Jamaica	266
Japan	125

Country	Workers
Jordan	339
Kazakhstan	584
Kenya	78
Korea Republic of (South)	1
Kuwait	44850
Kyrgyzstan	28
Lebanon	503
Madagascar	79
Malawi	53
Malaysia	149
Maldives	4584
Malta	57
Mauritania	139
Mauritius	246
Mexico	8
Morocco	8
Mozambique	131
Myanmar	5
Nepal	3
Netherlands	93
New Zealand	205
Nigeria	2209
Norway	243
Oman	50736
Papua New Guinea	0
Philippines	204

Country	Workers
Poland	119
Portugal	24
Qatar	30588
Russia	262
Rwanda	0
Saudi Arabia	50053
Senegal	84
Seychelles	215
Sierra Leone	188
Singapore	5364
Somalia	52
South Africa	261
South Korea	7
South Sudan	2
Spain	5
Sri Lanka	1268
Sudan	105
Suriname	0
Sweden	122
Switzerland	0
Tajikistan	18
Tanzania	181
Thailand	39
Togo	18
Trinidad and Tobago	1
Tunisia	1

Country	Workers
Turkey	34
UAE	86018
Uganda	247
Ukraine	41
United Kingdom	1106
USA	2392
Uzbekistan	82
Venezuela	0
Vietnam	135
Zambia	0
TOTAL	312230

**Confucius institutes in the country**

574. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Confucius institutes are operating in various parts of the country without the approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had issued detailed guidelines for establishment and functioning of foreign Confucius institutes in the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent are those guidelines properly adhered to by such Confucius institutes?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'):

(a) and (b) Universities in India are autonomous in nature. They can enter into an instrument of collaboration (Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Educational Exchange Programme (EEP)/Agreements/Joint Declaration of Intent(JDI)/Letter of Intent(LOI) etc.) with a foreign institution even without the approval of the Union