

**Evacuation of Indian citizens during the Corona Pandemic**

1364. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

- (a) how many people were brought back to India during the Corona Pandemic;
- (b) the countries in which India was not able to evacuate during the Corona pandemic along with the reasons therefor and the future plan of action; and
- (c) whether there are any Indian citizens who still need to be evacuated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) As on 16 September, 2020, more than 14,47,481 stranded Indian nationals have returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission including from remote areas in the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa. As per information provided by the Missions, many people who have registered may no longer wish to return. Moreover, as per latest guidelines of India, passengers are no longer required to register for Air Bubble flights. Most people with compelling reasons have safely returned to their homes by air, land and sea. Since Phase 6 of the Vande Bharat Mission is ongoing with more flights added, including chartered flights and under bilateral Air Bubble agreements with various countries, it is possible for Indian nationals to return at their convenience.

**Expat Quota Bill by Kuwait**

1365. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the proposed Expat Quota Bill by Kuwait;
- (b) whether it is a fact that as many as 8 lakh Indians are going to be affected with this Bill;
- (c) whether any consultations at the diplomatic and political level have taken place in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Yes.