

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1355
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

INDIANS STUCK IN AFGHANISTAN

1355. SHRI A. D. SINGH.

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians and Indian origin people still stuck in Afghanistan and the efforts being made to bring them out; and
- (b) the number of visas issued to distressed Afghans under E-visa Scheme?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) In view of the rapid deterioration in the security situation in Afghanistan, especially after 15 August 2021, a 24 x 7 Special Afghanistan Cell was set up in Ministry of External Affairs to facilitate repatriation and other requests from Afghanistan. As a result, a total of 565 stranded people were evacuated under the “Operation Devi Shakti”. However, a few Indians, who have contacted the Special Afghanistan Cell still remain stranded. The Special Afghanistan Cell is in touch with these Indians as well as the members of the Afghan Hindu-Sikh minority community.

(b) As on 24 November 2021, 200 e-Emergency X – Misc visas have been issued to distressed Afghans. Further, in view of the situation in Afghanistan, stay visa has been extended for 4,557 Afghan nationals who are presently staying in India.
