

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2458**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2022

**RESCUE OF INDIANS FROM UKRAINE**

2458. DR. V. SIVADASAN:

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) when was the first rescue flight carrying Indians from Ukraine started;
- (b) whether Government is aware that many countries had carried out strict evacuation before the war;
- (c) if so, the reasons Government did not evacuate the Indians before the start of the war;
- (d) the number of people evacuated and to be evacuated;
- (e) the facilities arranged by Government for rescued people after reaching Delhi, including their travel to home; and
- (f) whether State Governments had made any arrangements for the travel of the people to their home after reaching Delhi, the State-wise details of arrangements?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI]

- (a) First rescue flight carrying Indian nationals was operated on February 26, 2022.
- (b) & (c) As per available information, the Government is not aware of evacuations carried out by any country at government cost before February 24, 2022.
- (d) Around 18,500 Indian nationals were evacuated from Ukraine from 26 February -15 March, 2022. Around 40-50 Indian nationals are still present in Ukraine, of which only a few are willing to return to India. Their return is being facilitated by the Embassy.
- (e) & (f) Ministry of External Affairs coordinated with the Resident Commissioners/State Governments in ensuring that arrangements were made by them for return of Indian nationals to their respective States.

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