

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2465
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2022

RETURN OF INDIAN NATIONALS FROM UKRAINE

2465. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the reasons for no evacuation plan being made for Indian nationals in Ukraine before or at the beginning of the war and the reasons it was not announced to them at the start of hostilities;
- (b) the number of Indians estimated to be in Ukraine in January 2022;
- (c) the number of those who have been brought back by the Indian Government and from which countries;
- (d) the number of those who returned to India on their own; and
- (e) Government's own expenditure on these operations?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Government took a number of pro-active steps to facilitate return and evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the prevailing tense situation. This included fresh registration of Indian nationals in Ukraine by Indian Embassy in Kyiv in January 2022; issuance of regular advisories from 15 February onwards; removal of restrictions on air-bubble arrangement with Ukraine; setting-up of 24x7 Control Room in Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Missions in Kyiv and its neighbouring countries; deployment of teams of Russian speaking officers in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries and also at the border points. The Government launched 'Operation Ganga' under which 90 evacuation flights including 14 IAF flights were operated.
- (b) The number of Indian nationals in Ukraine that were registered with the Indian Embassy in Kyiv as on 31 January, 2022 was around 20,000.
- (c) Over 18,500 Indian nationals were evacuated from Ukraine as a result of India's efforts during the conflict from 26 February-15 March, 2022 from Romania, Hungary, Poland, Moldova and Slovakia.
- (d) Around 4000 Indian nationals departed from Ukraine by direct and indirect flights between 1-23 February 2022.
- (e) The bills for expenditure incurred are yet to be received.
