

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2476
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2022

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA

2476. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD:

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

- (a) whether Government has decided on financial assistance or any other form of aid to Sri Lanka, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is aware about the safety of Indian traders and Indian citizens in Sri Lanka in the wake of the unrest formed in the Sri Lankan economy, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any statistics regarding the Indian citizens in Sri Lanka; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours. In line with this policy, India continues to support Sri Lanka to overcome its economic challenges as also to assist in its economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2022, India extended a US\$ 400 million currency swap to Sri Lanka under the SAARC Framework and to deferred Asian Clearing Union (A.C.U.) settlement of US\$ 515.2 million till May 6, 2022. A new Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million was extended to Sri Lanka by the Government for importing fuel from India. In addition, India has extended a credit facility of USD 1 billion for the procurement of food, medicine and other essential items from India. Indian Mission and Posts in Sri Lanka are in regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals in Sri Lanka. According to the available information, there are approximately 4500 Indian citizens in Sri Lanka.
