

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1832
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 22/12/2022

COMPLAINTS FROM NRI WOMEN

1832. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of complaints received from NRI women who have been abandoned by their NRI spouses in the last five years;
- (b) the details thereof including the number of complaints settled and pending within the aforementioned time frame;
- (c) whether there are any steps being taken for implementing a mechanism to protect the interests of these women, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether there is a procedure in place to issue legal summons on the accused NRI husbands and, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per available information, there are about 2372 complaints from NRI women who have allegedly been abandoned by their spouses in the last 5 years. All the complaints have since been attended to.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to implement various mechanisms to address the issues of abandonment, domestic violence, harassment and other matrimonial disputes faced by married NRI women. The Ministry and the Missions/Posts provide appropriate counselling, guidance and information to the aggrieved Indian women about legal procedures & mechanisms in such cases. The Indian Missions and Posts conduct Walk-in sessions and Open House meetings for the distressed Indians including women to address their grievances. Online consular assistance is provided to distressed Indian women through MADAD, CPGRAMS and social media. Further, Missions and Posts also maintain a 24x7 Helpline for emergency situations. Financial and legal assistance is provided under the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to distressed NRI women. Assistance through other mechanisms where applicable such as women's organisations, NGOs, Indian Associations are also in place.

(d) There are processes in place for issuing summons under both civil and criminal cases which are normally regulated under reciprocal agreements. Legal summons in marital disputes are also served through this process.
