

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION DIARY NO- 397
ANSWERED ON- 28/11/2024

STATUS OF REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM SOUTH-EAST ASIA

397. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

Will the minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly thirty thousand Indians are yet to return from various countries in South-East Asia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether there has been a delay in the return of these Indian citizens and if so, the details thereof, along with the reasons for the delay; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Ministry to ensure their safe repatriation, and the timeline of the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) Government is aware of instances where dubious firms involved in fake recruitment job offers have lured Indian nationals mostly through social media channels to the South-East Asian countries and made them to carry out cyber crime and other illegal activities from scam centres operating in these countries. The exact number of Indian nationals stuck in these countries is not known as Indian nationals reach these scam centres on their own violation through fraudulent/unscrupulous recruitment agents/agencies and through illegal channels. The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the 'Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre' (I4C) as an attached office to deal with all types of cyber crime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

(c & d) Government accords utmost priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. Government of India has raised this issue at political level with the host Government from time to time. Missions/Posts take up the issue of rescue and repatriation of Indian nationals actively with the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned Government agencies of the host countries like Immigration, Labour Department, Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs and law enforcement agencies. The details of Indian nationals rescued by our Missions/Posts in South-East Asian countries are as below:

Country	No. of Indian National rescued
Cambodia	1091
Lao PDR	770
Myanmar	497

The Government has established various channels to enable Indian nationals abroad to reach out to the Mission/Post in case they need any assistance. They can contact the Missions/Posts through walk-in interview, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portal like MADAD, CPGAMS, and eMigrate, and social media etc.

Ministry issues advisories and social media posts about the fake job rackets from time to time. Similar communications are also issued by the respective Indian Missions/Posts abroad through their official websites, social media handles and print media. Our Missions in South-East Asian countries issued various detailed advisories, upon receiving such information on Indian nationals being lured by fake job rackets in South-East countries, to alert job seekers, and advise them to verify all antecedents of recruiting agents and companies before accepting any kind of employment offer and not be enticed and entrapped in the fraudulent job offers in these countries.

Ministry, in coordination with the Indian Missions/Posts abroad and offices of Protectors of Emigrants in India, take quick and decisive action whenever instances of exploitation of job seekers by illegal agents come to notice. Complaints against the illegal agents and the dubious firms luring Indian youth in false recruitment offers through various channels are regularly shared with the respective State Governments and other agencies such as I4C, MHA for suitable action. To spread awareness on cyber crime, the Central Government has taken steps which inter-alia include; dissemination of relevant information through SMS, I4C social media account, radio campaigns, engaged MyGov for publicity in multiple channels, organizing cyber safety and security awareness weeks in association with States/UTs, newspaper advertisement on digital arrest scams, announcements in Delhi Metros on digital arrest, and other modus operandi of cyber crimes.
