

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1191
ANSWERED ON- 05/12/2024

DISTRAUGHT AND ABANDONED INDIAN WOMEN

1191. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU

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

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to deal with the issue of distraught Indian women whose NRI spouses had abandoned them in the country;
- (b) whether Government has carried out an assessment and tabulated the exact number of such brides in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details on the number and nature of assistance provided to such women; and
- (d) the details of steps taken to ensure the number falls down in the time to come?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government has taken a number of steps to implement various mechanisms to address the issue of distraught Indian women whose NRI spouses have abandoned them in the country. The Government of India through its Missions/ Posts abroad extend appropriate counselling, guidance and advice to the aggrieved Indian women about the legal procedures and mechanisms in such cases at their disposal to alleviate their distress. Indian Missions and Posts also 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 women in foreign countries whose NRI husbands have abandoned them and assistance through other mechanisms where applicable such as women's organisations, NGOs, Indian Associations have been put also in place. As regards Indian Women whose NRI spouses have abandoned them in India, all assistance is extended by the Ministry of External Affairs to facilitate appearances of erring NRI husbands in judicial proceedings in India through Video Conferencing.

(b) No assessment has been carried out by this Ministry.

(c) The details of number and nature of assistance provided to distraught women by our Missions and Posts abroad in recent times is attached at 'Annexure-A'.

(d) Ministry constantly strives to address this issue by providing counselling, guidance, conducting open house meetings and walk in sessions for aggrieved women so that the number of such cases are reduced in times to come. Indian Missions/Posts abroad also mediate between the aggrieved parties to forge reconciliations.

Data on Distraught and abandoned Indian Women in Indian Missions/Posts abroad

Sr. No.	Name of Mission/ Post	Number of cases where assistance was provided	Nature of Assistance provided
1.	CGI, Houston	15	Mission provided Legal assistance to Indian women affected by marital disputes in the form of connecting them to pro bono legal attorney of the Consulate for their guidance in the case
2.	EoI, Brazzaville	1	Upon receipt of complaint from the aggrieved woman, the Embassy promptly intervened, reaching out to her spouse. Through effective communication and mediation, the Embassy successfully facilitated the renewal of her visa and ensured her safe return to India
3.	HCI, Kingston	1	Mission provided hotel accommodation and arrange ticket for going to India to one woman whose foreign spouse had abandoned her
4.	EoI, Copenhagen	1	Advice in the matter is being provided by Mission
5.	EoI, Bahrain	7	Mission provided boarding & lodging, air tickets and legal assistance as per the necessity of the case.
6.	EoI, N'Djamena	1	Mission helped the aggrieved lady by issuing gratis visa to the child to exit the country.
7.	CGI, Milan	6	Suitable advice was provided by the Mission to the aggrieved women
8.	EoI, Washington	21	Mission provided necessary financial and legal assistance and pro bono legal assistance as and when required
9.	HCI, Ottawa	10	Suitable advice was provided by the Mission to the aggrieved women
10.	CGI, Sydney	35	Mission provided temporary shelter and air tickets and provided pro bono legal assistance to the aggrieved women as and when required along with necessary advice
11.	HCI, Wellington	45	Mission provides consular support to aggrieved women and other assistance as required
12.	CGI, San Francisco	46	The Consulate provides assistance on case to case basis by giving them information about Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between India and the USA and by informing them about local NGOs working for such women such as Narika, Maitri, etc.

13.	CGI, Atlanta	30	Consulate approach the distressed women by phone or through email, understand the issues in detail and do the necessary counseling. The Post counsels the distressed women and informs her about various options available to her and help her getting in contact with NGOs working in this field. Mission also provided financial aid to the distressed women.
14.	EoI, Sofia	1	Necessary assistance was provided
15.	HCI, Colombo	4	Mission provided necessary consular and legal assistance as per case to case basis
16.	EoI, Riyadh	45	Necessary assistance was provided by Mission on case to case basis. Mission also facilitated the issue of final exit of the deserted woman with her children back to India, where she had so desired
17.	HCI, Canberra	27	Mission provides information about remedies available from the local authorities and judicial recourse under the bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). Assistance is also provided to distressed women utilizing ICWF on means tested basis
18.	CGI, Dubai	1044	Post provided counselling, legal assistance and subsistence allowance on case to case basis
19.	EoI, Kuwait	2	Embassy if needed provides distressed lady with accomodation along with counselling
20.	EoI, Berlin	39	Mission provided necessary feedback and guidance to the complainant in the case
21.	HCI, Singapore	256	The mission provides counselling service to the NRI spouses and advice them to seek legal assistance. They are also provided the Mission's panel of lawyers for them to seek legal assistance
22.	EoI, Rome	6	The Mission has guided the applicants to share the details of court judgements related to their cases of domestic dispute in India which can be followed up with the local authorities as well as advised them to take it up with the concerned law enforcement officials in India
23.	EoI, Doha	118	Embassy also assists the distressed women in issuing summons/court orders to their spouses through local Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24.	EoI, Abu Dhabi	3	Mission provided the distress women with subsistence allowance and air tickets as per requirement.
25.	CGI, Birmingham	3	Mission advised distressed Indian women about the legal remedies available to them
26.	EoI, Madrid	3	The Mission has provided support by guiding the victims and their families about pursuing the matter with the concerned authorities.
27.	EoI, Paris	12	Mission in all cases either itself counselled the

			NRI husband or gave suitable advice or connected the distressed lady with community members for help
28.	HCI, London	54	Mission provided travel assistance and food as per requirement of the case
29.	HCI, Lilongwe	1	Mission provided with air ticket to distressed women
30.	EoI, The Hague	3	Mission contacted them and they were advised on legal options including making a complaint to the Dutch Police
31.	CGI, Edinburgh	17	The Post extended support to distraught Indian women by counselling them, connecting them with Indian community leaders, advising them on recourses, legal or otherwise, available to them in India as well as in Scotland
32.	HCI, Kuala Lumpur	12	Mission provided distressed women with air tickets, food and shelter, assistance in immigration fines and legal assistance on case to case basis
33.	EoI, Manila	1	Mission provided distressed women with food and shelter
34.	HCI, Gaborone	1	Assistance as sought by complainant provided
Total		1871	
