

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1671
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

INDIAN DEPORTED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

#1671. SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK

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

- (a) the number of Indians deported by other countries for intruding that country illegally, country-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the people of Indian origin were recently deported in shackles from the United States and whether they could not have been brought back in a more humane manner;
- (c) whether the Central Government has made any effort in this regard; 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 PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) Many foreign countries do not provide information on illegal stay in their countries, except when they are under orders of deportation and travel document/nationality verification is required. As such, our Missions and Posts do not have any reliable data on the number of Indians staying or working illegally in foreign countries. The procedure followed for deportation of foreign nationals also varies from country to country. Some countries do not arrest the deportee and keep them in detention/deportation centers until deportation. Moreover, the information about arrest/detention and deportation is not shared with Indian Missions/Posts and the deportation is done directly by the host Government if the deportee has valid travel document. Indian Missions/Posts are contacted by the host Governments only in such cases where the nationality verification and issuance of Emergency Certificate (EC) to the deportee is required. Since all foreign countries do not share details of all Indian deportees, the exact number of Indians deported from foreign countries is not available with this Division.

(b) to (d) Deportation of Indian nationals from the USA have been taking place for several years now. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities of USA organize and execute deportations as per Standard Operating Procedure, effective from November 2012, which provides for use of restraints. The US side has mentioned that this policy is followed to ensure safety of the mission. The US restraining policy is applied to deportees on both chartered civilian aircraft as well as military aircraft. While women and minors are generally not shackled, the flight officer in charge of a deportation flight has the final say on the use of restraints. The needs of deportees during the transit, related to food or other necessities including possible medical emergencies, are also to be attended.

Government is in constant dialogue with the US Government regarding the need for humane treatment of Indian nationals during such deportation operations. We have registered our concerns with the US authorities, particularly with respect to use of restraints on the deportees, especially women and children. The US Government has responded that it strives to protect civil rights and civil liberties, including respect for an individuals religious beliefs. US side has confirmed that on deportation flights that landed in India on 15 and 16 February 2025, women and children were not restrained. In addition, 55 Indian nationals, who were deported from 20 February to 2 March 2025 by the US via Panama on commercial flights after verification, were not restrained.
