

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1673
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

DEPORTATION OF INDIANS FROM US

1673. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA

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

- a) whether the Ministry has any data on the total number of Indians identified by the US authorities so far for deportation;
- b) the total number of Indians deported to India from the US as on date;
- c) whether the Ministry has taken up the issue of violation of human dignity and religious symbols by the US during deportation; 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 KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) – (d) Since January 2025, a total of 388 individuals, after completion of necessary verification processes by Indian agencies, have been cleared to be deported to India from the United States. Of these, 333 individuals were deported directly from the U.S. to India, while the remaining 55 individuals were deported from U.S. to India via Panama on commercial flights.

In addition, the U.S. side has recently shared information pertaining to 295 individuals who are in the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with final orders of removal. Concerned agencies of the Government of India are currently verifying the nationality details of these individuals.

Details of Indian nationals deported from the U.S. since 2009 (year-wise) is placed below:

Year	No. of Deportees
2009	734

2010	799
2011	597
2012	530
2013	515
2014	591
2015	708
2016	1303
2017	1024
2018	1180
2019	2042
2020	1889
2021	805
2022	862
2023	617
2024	1368
2025 (till date)	388

ICE authorities of USA organize and execute deportations as per the Standard Operating Procedure, effective from November 2012, which provides for use of restraints on deportees. The US side has mentioned that the policy of restraints is followed to ensure the safety and security of the mission. While women and minors are generally not shackled, the flight officer in charge of a deportation flight has the final say on the matter. Government has strongly registered its concerns with the U.S. authorities on the treatment meted out to deportees on the 5th February deportation flight, particularly with respect to use of shackles, especially on women. The U.S. side has confirmed that no women or children were restrained on the deportation flights that landed in India on February 15th and 16th respectively. This has been confirmed and recorded by our agencies after interviewing the deportees on their arrival in India.

Government has also registered its concerns regarding the need to accommodate the religious sensitivities and food preferences of the deportees. In this regard, the U.S. side has conveyed to the Ministry of External Affairs that detainees on the three deportation flights (that landed on 05, 15 and 16 February 2025 respectively) were not instructed to remove any religious head coverings and that the detainees did not request any religious accommodations during the flights aside from requesting for vegetarian meals.
