

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1047
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

BRINGING BACK MORTAL REMAINS OF INDIAN CITIZENS WHO DIED ABROAD

1047. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Indian citizens who died abroad during the last three years, country-wise;
- (b) the details of the mortal remains of the Indian citizens that had been brought back to India during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the process through which the mortal remains are brought back to the country;
- (d) whether Government supports the family of the deceased Indian citizens to bring back the mortal remains to the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The country-wise list of Indian citizens who died abroad during the last three years is attached at Annexure A.
- (b) The mortal remains of 19574 Indian citizens had been brought back to India during the last three years. State-wise data is not available with the Ministry.
- (c to e) Government of India attaches high priority to addressing and resolving the issues pertaining to transportation of mortal remains of Indian nationals. As soon as our Mission/Post receives information about the death of an Indian citizen, they immediately contact the kin of the deceased Indian national, as well as the local authorities to complete the necessary formalities and facilitate the transportation or local burial/cremation of the mortal remains, in accordance with the wishes of the kin and local regulations.

The process of transportation of mortal remains to India involves various steps, most of which are to be undertaken by the local authorities in the country concerned. These steps differ somewhat from country to country and therefore there is no fixed time frame for eventual transportation. Generally, the transportation of mortal remains is quicker in cases of natural deaths in comparison to the cases of unnatural deaths, due to procedures involved in those countries for investigating the cause of death in case of unnatural death.

In order to expedite the repatriation of mortal remains to India, Missions/Posts liaise with different authorities in the foreign countries and concerned state authorities in India to obtain Medical report/death certificate from the hospital concerned, police report (with English translation, if required in case of accidental or unnatural death) and consent letter from next of kin of the deceased for local cremation/burial/transportation.

Mission/Post issues "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for transportation or local cremation/burial as required immediately, including on weekends/holidays, on receipt of requisite documents and further facilitates the process by coordinating for clearance and arrangements for embalming of mortal remains from the authorities concerned in the foreign country, clearance from local immigration/customs department and coordination with Indian customs authorities and State authorities in India, if required.

The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is set up in Indian Missions & Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations on a means tested basis in deserving cases. The support extended under ICWF includes transportation of mortal remains.

S.No.	Country	Number of Indians who died abroad		
		2022	2023	2024
1	Afghanistan	0	1	3
2	Algeria	0	3	3
3	Angola	7	2	10
4	Argentina	0	2	0
5	Armenia	7	23	25
6	Austria	15	14	14
7	Australia	168	189	109
8	Azerbaijan	3	5	2
9	Bahrain	254	303	287
10	Belarus	1	5	4
11	Bangladesh	39	38	31
12	Belgium	17	9	12
13	Bhutan	15	13	17
14	Bolivia	1	2	0
15	Botswana	14	12	10
16	Brazil	2	1	6
17	Brunei Darussalam	11	9	12
18	Bulgaria	1	1	2
19	Burkina Faso	5	3	6
20	Cambodia	3	12	10
21	Cameroon	3	6	5
22	Canada	234	336	359
23	Chile	4	1	0
24	China	48	44	43
25	Congo (ROC)	1	2	2
26	Congo (DRC)	23	37	38
27	Colombia	3	4	1
28	Cote D' Ivoire	9	11	11
29	Croatia	2	1	4
30	Cuba	3	0	2
31	Cyprus	9	9	12
32	Czech Republic	5	3	5
33	Denmark	5	7	6
34	Djibouti	0	1	1
35	Egypt	16	14	19
36	Equatorial Guinea	1	3	1
37	Eritrea	1	0	1
38	Eswatini	4	1	2
39	Ethiopia	10	4	6
40	Fiji	2	1	0
41	Finland	7	4	2
42	France	39	36	34

43	Germany	53	107	147
44	Ghana	18	16	20
45	Greece	35	40	43
46	Guatemala	0	1	1
47	Guinea	9	3	6
48	Hungary	6	6	6
49	Indonesia	35	35	36
50	Iran	12	20	10
51	Iraq	20	26	41
52	Ireland	11	14	19
53	Israel	7	7	10
54	Italy	296	304	374
55	Jamaica	2	6	5
56	Japan	31	26	27
57	Jordan	18	18	8
58	Kazakhstan	2	4	8
59	Kenya	31	33	22
60	Korea (ROK)	10	13	9
61	Kuwait	731	708	733
62	Kyrgyzstan	1	3	6
63	Laos	4	1	5
64	Lebanon	16	12	18
65	Liberia	6	4	10
66	Libya	7	3	3
67	Madagascar	10	10	8
68	Malawi	18	7	9
69	Malaysia	307	477	526
70	Maldives	30	37	23
71	Mali	0	4	2
72	Malta	3	7	10
73	Mauritius	10	19	29
74	Mexico	8	7	19
75	Morocco	0	2	1
76	Mongolia	1	0	0
77	Mozambique	9	7	9
78	Myanmar	3	2	1
79	Namibia	0	1	1
80	Nepal	118	93	117
81	Netherlands	17	15	25
82	New Zealand	46	54	46
83	Niger	0	0	0
84	Nigeria	41	50	36
85	Norway	4	9	7
86	Oman	452	503	474
87	Pakistan	12	9	12
88	Palestine	0	0	0
89	Panama	9	3	3

90	Papua New Guinea	0	1	1
91	Paraguay	0	1	0
92	Peru	0	1	1
93	Philippines	91	61	67
94	Poland	15	13	22
95	Portugal	29	26	46
96	Qatar	366	352	307
97	Romania	6	7	3
98	Russia	16	27	30
99	Rwanda	4	2	6
100	Sao Tome & Principe	1	0	0
101	Saudi Arabia	2148	2693	2629
102	Serbia	6	2	5
103	Senegal	2	6	4
104	Seychelles	8	9	12
105	Sierra Leone	8	5	9
106	Singapore	195	224	250
107	Slovak Republic	1	0	1
108	South Africa	67	45	40
109	South Sudan	0	0	3
110	Spain	52	51	34
111	Sri Lanka	26	26	42
112	Sudan	10	4	2
113	Suriname	0	4	1
114	Sweden	14	2	12
115	Switzerland	15	17	20
116	Syria	1	0	0
117	Tanzania	31	33	1
118	Thailand	83	122	119
119	Togo	2	1	2
120	Trinidad & Tobago	1	0	1
121	Tunisia	1	1	2
122	Turkiye	10	9	13
123	Turkmenistan	0	1	0
124	Uganda	50	45	34
125	United Arab Emirates	2208	2133	2571
126	United Kingdom	224	294	329
127	Ukraine	2	2	1
128	United States of America	1005	1057	967
129	Uzbekistan	1	7	13
130	Venezuela	0	1	0
131	Vietnam	6	10	12
132	Yemen	3	2	0
133	Zambia	15	14	17
134	Zimbabwe	2	5	0