

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5716

ANSWERED ON- 04/04/2025

SUPPORT TO INDIAN POPULATION FACING LEGAL CHALLENGES ABROAD

5716. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE

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

(a) the specific measures the Government is likely to implement to support its expatriate population facing legal challenges abroad particularly in the United States (US); and

(b) the manner in which the Government plans to engage with the new U.S. immigration policy in the long term particularly in terms of enhancing legal migration routes and minimizing the risks posed to Indian citizens residing illegally in the U.S.?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) The Government of India, through its diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad, provide support and assistance to the Indian population facing legal challenges abroad by offering necessary consular services and legal aid. Indian Embassies and Consulates seek consular access to detained or arrested Indian nationals in order to provide necessary assistance. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been set up in Indian Missions/ Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress and facing legal challenges, on a means tested basis in deserving cases. Indian Missions and Posts abroad, through their empanelled lawyers, offer legal advice and guidance as required. Any unfortunate incident or legal challenges faced by members of the Indian diaspora community are immediately taken up by Missions/Posts abroad with the concerned authorities of the host country to ensure their safety and fair treatment. Such issues, when it occurs, are also raised during meetings with Government officials of the concerned countries, including at the highest levels, as appropriate.

The concerns of the Indian diaspora members are responded to almost on a real time basis through telephone calls, walk-ins, emails, social media, 24x7 emergency helplines, Open Houses and the MADAD Portal.

(b) With regard to illegal migration, it is the policy of the Government of India to negotiate mutually advantageous and secure mobility frameworks with other countries that allows for streamlining avenues for legal mobility of students and professionals, and facilitating short-term tourist and business travel, while also addressing illegal immigration and human trafficking by taking strong action against the bad actors, criminal facilitators, and illegal immigration networks. In such cases, all necessary assistance to Indian nationals is being provided by the Government as per extant rules.

During the recent visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the United States of America, the two sides underlined the evolution of the world into a global workplace and called for facilitating secure and mutually beneficial mobility frameworks between the two countries while cracking down on illegal immigration networks.
