

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to lift Travel Ban to Yemen

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): I would like to raise a matter regarding travel ban to Yemen. Yemen has been at war since the Houthis took control of Sanaa in 2014. All Indian nationals were strongly advised by the Indian authorities to avoid travelling to Yemen under any circumstances, as the security situation in Yemen was fragile with armed hostilities continuing in parts of the country. But a truce was signed between warring parties on April 2, 2022. The truce between the Yemeni government and the country's Houthi rebels was extended for two months on August 2, 2022.

As part of the truce deal that went into effect on April 2, the parties to the conflict had agreed to halt all military operations inside Yemen and across its borders, operate two commercial flights a week from Houthi-controlled Sanaa to Jordan and Egypt. Another major success of the truce was the resumption of commercial flights from Sanaa Airport on April 16, the first in six years.

Around 3000 Indians are registered with the embassy. Most of the Indians living in Yemen comprise hospital staff, professionals, academicians, engineers, etc. The Indian expatriates are facing severe inconvenience due to the travel ban to Yemen. In the light of the truce, I request the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs to intervene in the matter to lift the travel ban to Yemen.