

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 903

ANSWERED ON- 07/02/2025

INDIANS TRAPPED IN RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR FRONTLINES

903. THIRU DAYANIDHI MARAN:

SHRI S VENKATESAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps taken to ensure the early return of the Indian nationals still trapped in Russia, particularly those forced to join the war and those classified as "missing persons";**
- (b) the assurances or commitments, if any, received from Russia regarding safe repatriation of remaining Indians;**
- (c) whether there are any recent updates on negotiations with Russian authorities to expedite the release of these individuals, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether any international agencies, humanitarian organizations or intelligence networks are being engaged to assist in this effort and if, so the details thereof;**
- (e) whether any legal channels have been explored to ensure the early discharge of Indians forcibly inducted into the Russian Army;**

(f) if so, whether the Ministry is leveraging international diplomatic forums or allies for swift action in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the manner in which the Ministry is verifying and confirming media reports regarding the deaths of Indians and the steps being taken to recover their mortal remains?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to g) Government have consistently taken up with Russian authorities, including at the highest levels, the matter of Indian nationals recruited into the Russian Army. As per available information, 18 Indian nationals remain in the Russian armed forces, out of which 16 have been reported missing by the Russian side. The Government of India is in direct and regular contact with the relevant Russian authorities to locate the missing individuals and ensure their safety, well-being, and early discharge, as well as for the repatriation of discharged individuals or of any mortal remains to India. Accordingly, the involvement of any third parties or agencies in this process is not contemplated by Government.
