

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3480

ANSWERED ON- 21/03/2025

TREATMENT OF INDIAN DEPORTEES

3480 SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH

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

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of reports regarding Indian deportees being shackled during repatriation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has raised any formal diplomatic objections with the United States regarding the treatment of Indian deportees, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for deportation by aircraft, effective since 2012 has allowed the use of restraints if so, whether India has sought any modifications for its nationals and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Ministry has received any complaints from deported individuals regarding mistreatment during repatriation, if so, the details of the reports along with the action taken reports against the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) The Ministry of External Affairs remains engaged with the U.S. side regarding humane treatment of deportees during deportation operations. The Ministry has strongly registered its concerns with the U.S. authorities on the treatment meted out to deportees on the flight that landed on 5th February 2025, particularly with respect to use of shackles, especially on women. The U.S. Standard Operating Procedure to organize and execute deportations effective from November 2012 calls for the use of restraints on deportees. The U.S. authorities have conveyed that restraints are applied 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. The U.S. side has confirmed that no women or children

were restrained on the deportation flights that landed in India on 15th and 16th February 2025 respectively. This has also been confirmed and recorded by our agencies after interviewing the deportees on their arrival in India.

The Ministry of External Affairs also registered its concerns regarding the need to accommodate the religious sensitivities and food preferences of the deportees. The U.S. side has conveyed to the Ministry of External Affairs that detainees on the three deportation flights (that landed on 05th, 15th and 16th 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.
