

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3456  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006  
EVACUATION OF INDIAN NATIONALS FROM LEBANON  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the India has launched an operation 'Sukoon' to evacuate the Indian Nationals from Lebanon;
- (b) if so, the number of ships put into operation by Indian Navy;
- (c) the total Indian population in Lebanon at present and the number of persons evacuated by Indian Navy so far;
- (d) the number of persons of Indian origin killed in recent Israel attack on Lebanon; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for the safe return of Indian Nationals from Lebanon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Four ships of the Indian Navy were deployed.
- (c) At the outbreak of recent hostilities between Israel and Lebanon, about 12,000 Indians were residing in Lebanon. Indian Navy evacuated 2280 persons, who desired to leave, from Beirut between 20-29 July 2006. The evacuated persons included 69 Nepalese, 436 Sri Lankan and 7 Lebanese Nationals.
- (d) 1 Indian National was killed.
- (e) After assessing the security situation in the area, the Indian authorities acted expeditiously and made immediate arrangements for the safe evacuation of Indian Nationals from Lebanon. The Indian Mission in Beirut is in contact with the Indian Nationals in Lebanon through various Indian organizations and is making necessary arrangements for the Indian Nationals desiring to leave Lebanon.