



**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India

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## QUESTION NO.1615 MORTAL BODIES OF INDIANS LYING IN SAUDI ARABIA

March 16, 2017

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1615  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2017

### MORTAL BODIES OF INDIANS LYING IN SAUDI ARABIA

1615. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of bodies of persons from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are piling up at mortuaries in Saudi Arabia for nearly a year as families are unable to bring them back for the last rites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to discuss the matter with the concerned authorities and facilitate early dispatch of bodies to their homes for the last rites?

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) No. There are currently only 02 dead bodies registered from Andhra Pradesh and 5 from Telangana with the Embassy of India at Riyadh for which No Objection Certificates (NOCs) have already been issued. In addition, 04 death cases have also been reported from Andhra Pradesh and 03 from Telangana for which formal documents are still awaited that will enable the Embassy to issue the NOCs.

(c) While dealing with death cases of Indian nationals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Indian Mission/Consulate in Saudi Arabia provide assistance on a proactive basis from informing the next of kin

to facilitating the disposal of mortal remains either by local burial or transportation to India, in coordination with the sponsors. Death documents are attested and other assistance provided even beyond office hours and on holidays. The Indian Mission also pays the transportation charges for the mortal remains wherever applicable. Our Missions also keep bringing the delayed cases to the notice of the Saudi authorities on regular basis for early dispatch of the mortal remains. The death cases are also regularly taken up by senior officers of the Mission during meetings in the Foreign Office and other related offices. The issues pertaining to death cases are also taken up during the bilateral Consular meetings from time to time.

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Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.