

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR TRANSIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS STRANDED IN INDIA

Sub-Clause (g) in exception to clause 6

It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that a number of foreign nationals are stranded in different parts of the country, due to the lockdown measures. Some foreign countries have approached Government of India for evacuation of their nationals to their countries.

2. In view of the above, it has now been decided that requests received from foreign governments, for evacuation of their nationals from India, would be examined by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India on case to case basis. In cases where such requests are endorsed by MEA, the following protocol would be observed:

- i) The chartered flight would be arranged by the concerned foreign government in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- ii) Prior to departure, the foreign national(s) would be screened for COVID-19 symptoms as per the standard health protocol. Only those foreign national(s) would be allowed to leave, who are asymptomatic for COVID-19. In case of symptomatic person(s), the future course of treatment would be followed, as per the standard health protocol.
- iii) The local transportation arrangements from the place of stay of the foreign national(s) to the point of embarkation would be arranged by the local Embassy/Consulate of the respective foreign government.
- iv) The transit pass for movement of the vehicle deployed for movement of the foreign national(s) would be issued by the Government of the State/Union Territory where the foreign national(s) is/are staying.
- v) The transit pass, as issued above, would be honoured/ allowed by the authorities of the State/Union Territories along the transit route.