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| http://www.indianconsulate-sf.org/images/ashokachkra.gif | EMBASSY OF INDIA  KUWAIT |

**Press Release**

**Subject: Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)**

For the welfare of Indian Community present in Kuwait, the Government of India has been providing financial assistance to distressed Indian nationals. During the year 2014, the Embassy raised Kuwaiti Dinars 1.59 lakh (about Indian Rupees 3.4 crore) as fees/contributions towards ICWF. An expenditure of Kuwaiti Dinars 39,000 (about Indian Rupees 84 lakh) was made for providing assistance to Indian nationals in Kuwait. In addition, a total contribution of over Kuwaiti Dinars 11 lakh (Indian Rupees 23 crore) for evacuation of stranded Indian nationals in Iraq and Libya was made.

2. The Embassy has been providing monetary help from the ICWF in following circumstances:

1. Boarding and lodging for distressed Indian Workers in domestic sectors (Article 20 visa);
2. Extending emergency medical care to the Overseas Indians;
3. Providing air passage to stranded and distressed Overseas Indians; and
4. Expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India of the deceased Overseas Indians in cases where sponsors are unable or unwilling to do so as per the contracts and the families are also unable to meet the cost.

3. The number of cases during the year 2014 in which Embassy provided air ticket, medical care and contingency travel expenses to the distressed Indian Workers are as under:-

**(During the Year 2014)**

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| **Description** | **No. of air tickets** | **No. of Indian nationals provided contingency/travel expenses** |
| Destitute workers accommodated in Embassy shelters (male/female) | 278 | KD 15,894 |
| No. of Indian nationals provided for repatriation of hospitalization/escorts overseas Indian nationals to India. | 727 | KD 11,628 |
| Airlifting of patients +escorts | 25 | KD 6,955 |
| Airlifting of mortal remains to India | 29 | KD 4,013 |
| Miscellaneous services | 02 | KD 510 |
| Total | **1,061** | **KD 39,000** |

4. You are aware that a surcharge of KD 0.500 is collected by the Embassy on all passport, visa and consular services towards the ICWF.

14 January 2015