



**MINISTRY  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**Date of Publication: 25 March 2022**

**1156. Mr M Chetty (DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

Whether, in view of our BRICS partnership with India, who successfully assisted to evacuate 23 000 of its Indian students, 170 foreign students from 17 countries, including Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal, she engaged with authorities in India to assist with the evacuation of South African students from Ukraine; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?**NW1413E**

**REPLY:**

South Africa and India enjoy a Strategic Partnership premised upon warm and cordial bilateral relations, and anchored in a deep and shared history of friendship and solidarity.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation did not officially engage with the Indian authorities regarding the evacuation of South African students from Ukraine. However, informal exploratory discussions took place between the South African Ambassador to Ukraine and his Indian counterpart to assist with the evacuation of South African Citizens (SACs). An informal request was submitted to the relevant Business Unit for assistance to liaise with the Indian High Commission in South Africa. This request was subsequently withdrawn as the students and other SACs, who indicated their intention to leave Ukraine, managed to find their way to neighbouring countries