

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1484
ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2023

COMPLAINTS AGAINST AGENCIES

†1484. SHRI BHOLANATH (B.P. SAROJ)
KUNWAR DANISH ALI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that many poor people are sent abroad especially from India to Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Qatar/Gulf countries for work by various agencies to earn wages and they are compelled to take to forced labour without salary and their passports are also confiscated;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the complaints that have been received by the Government during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has provided any help by Indian embassies abroad and bringing such labourers back to India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government against such agencies during the last three years, agency-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to e) The Government of India encourages only legal form of migration from India. The Ministry routinely organizes outreach programs to sensitize various stakeholders about benefits of safe and legal migration and on possible ways of preventing illegal migration through fake or unregistered recruitment agencies. Information about illegal agents is also uploaded and updated on regular basis on the eMigrate Portal.

Ministry also issues advisories, media briefings and tweets about fake job rackets from time to time. Such communications are also issued by concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad through their websites and social media handles and through the print media. Our Missions in Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia have issued advisories since July 2022 after receiving information about such cases of job scams to alert Indian nationals and to verify all antecedents before accepting an employment offer.

Quick and decisive action is taken by concerned Indian Missions/Posts as well as by Protector of Emigrant offices in India whenever instances of exploitation of workers by illegal agents are

noticed. As on 10 January 2023, 2331 illegal agents have been notified in eMigrate Portal. This information is regularly updated based on complaints filed by affected individuals. These complaints are also forwarded to concerned state police authorities for taking suitable action against illegal/fake agents as per existing laws.

The Ministry through Indian Missions/Posts abroad, takes pro- active measures for rescue of Indian nationals trapped in foreign countries whenever such cases come to the notice of the Ministry.
