

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1150**  
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2023

**EMPLOYED INDIANS IN OTHER COUNTRIES**

1150. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY

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

- (a) the details on Indian citizens currently employed in various foreign countries;
- (b) whether the Government has maintained any data of the top five countries with the highest number of Indian workers and their respective industries;
- (c) if so, the details of Tamil individuals currently employed abroad;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to support Tamil workers employed overseas; and
- (e) whether there are any specific initiatives to address the unique challenges faced by Tamil workers and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) As per available data, there are around 15 million Indian nationals abroad including unskilled workers, skilled workers and professionals. This Ministry maintains the data in respect of Indian workers, holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports, proceeding for overseas employment through e-Migrate portal to any of the 18 ECR countries.

Top five countries with the highest number of Indian workers are tabulated below. Ministry does not maintain industry wise data of Indians abroad:

Sr. No.	Name of the country	Approx. number of Indians in lakh
1	United Arab Emirates	35.54
2	Saudi Arabia	22.19
3	Kuwait	8.29
4	Qatar	8.00
5	Oman	5.30

(c) Country-wise details of Emigration Clearance issued to workers from Tamil Nadu during 2023 is enclosed as **Annexure**.

(d & e) Government of India has robust mechanism to monitor working conditions and grievance redressal of all Indian workers abroad, including from Tamil Nadu. Our Missions and Posts abroad remain vigilant all the time and actively monitor and follow each type of grievance received from the Indian nationals in foreign countries. The grievances are received and responded through various channels i.e. Emergency telephone number, Walk-

ins, e-Mails, Social Media, 24x7 Multilingual Helpline and Open Houses etc. To enable the aggrieved Indian national to online register his/her grievances, the Government has established Portals such as MADAD and e-Migrate. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in Dubai (UAE), Riyadh, Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide guidance and counselling to Indian workers abroad on all matters. There are dedicated Labour Wings in all the Indian Missions in Gulf Countries.

Indian Missions/Posts regularly organize Open Houses and Consular Camps in remote areas to get the feedback from the Indian workers abroad and address their grievances, if any. On receipt of complaint from or on behalf of the emigrant, the same is taken up pro-actively with the concerned Foreign Employer (FE) and the work place of the aggrieved worker is also visited, if required. The complaints pertaining to employment issues are also taken up with the local labour department and other relevant authority of the host country for prompt redressal.

Indian Missions/Posts utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) from time to time to provide financial and legal assistance to Indian national in distress abroad on a 'means tested basis'. Under the ICWF major assistance includes boarding and lodging, air passage to India, legal assistance, emergency medical care, transportation of mortal remains to India and payment of small fines and penalties.

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**Annexure**

<b>Country wise Emigration Clearance (EC) data for the workers from the State of Tamil Nadu from 2022 to Nov' 2023</b>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
United Arab Emirates	2269	2986
Saudi Arabia	6888	8225
Malaysia	3953	7272
Kuwait	5218	2794
Oman	3001	1808
Qatar	1705	1695
Bahrain	456	421
Jordan	50	33
Iraq	13	37
Lebanon	3	0
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>23556</b>	<b>25271</b>