

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-161  
ANSWERED ON- 02/02/2024**

**SKILLED WORKERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

**161. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN**

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

- (a) whether the Government has the details of Indian skilled/unskilled workers and professional workers working abroad;**
- (b) If so, the details thereof, country-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware that many labourers and workers working abroad have to live in unhealthy living conditions and are often denied basic needs; and**
- (d) if so, the details of initiatives taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)**

**(a & b) 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 ECR category countries. The country-wise data of Emigration Clearances (ECs) granted to such workers during the last 3 years is enclosed as Annexure – I.**

**(c & d) Government of India has robust mechanism to monitor working conditions and redress grievances of Indian workers abroad. Our Missions and Posts abroad remain vigilant all the time and actively monitor and follow-up the grievance(s) 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 aggrieved Indian national to register online 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 (Kindom 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, as 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.**

**The 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 ICWF, the 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. Since the launch of ICWF, total 3,42,543 Indian nationals have been assisted by Indian Missions/Posts till September 2023.**

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**Country-wise data of Emigration Clearances granted through e-Migrate portal to the Indian migrant workers during last 3 years:**

<b>Country</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>KSA</b>	<b>32845</b>	<b>178630</b>	<b>200713</b>
<b>UAE</b>	<b>10844</b>	<b>33233</b>	<b>71687</b>
<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>10158</b>	<b>71432</b>	<b>48212</b>
<b>Qatar</b>	<b>49579</b>	<b>30871</b>	<b>30683</b>
<b>Oman</b>	<b>19452</b>	<b>31994</b>	<b>21336</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12836</b>	<b>15319</b>
<b>Bahrain</b>	<b>6382</b>	<b>10232</b>	<b>7376</b>
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>2386</b>	<b>2487</b>	<b>1187</b>
<b>Iraq</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1599</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>South Sudan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>132673</b>	<b>373434</b>	<b>398316</b>

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