

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1197  
ANSWERED ON- 09/02/2024**

**PERSECUTION OF YOUTH WORKING ABROAD**

**†1197. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR**

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

- (a) whether the youth working abroad have to face persecution due to the lack of their awareness of the rules and regulations of the country concerned and other reasons;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Indian embassies to provide them immediate assistance;**
- (c) whether a large number of Indians are languishing in the jails of various countries including gulf countries;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to enact a new law to provide adequate security to the Indian workers against their exploitation abroad; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a to f) The Indian Missions receive complaints from workers, particularly domestic sector workers, on account of poor working conditions, non-payment or delay in payment of salaries and denial of other benefits such as medical facilities, refusal of leave or denial of exit/re-entry permits for visits to India, denial of final exit visas to the workers to return to India after completion of the contract, maltreatment by the employers etc. Incidents of confinement, physical abuse, abandoning of housemaids by their sponsors have also been reported. Most of the complaints pertain to workers, who do not have proper employment contracts and have migrated illegally, in violation of Government norms for recruitment of ECR workers from India.**

**Government of India has robust mechanism to monitor working conditions and grievance redressal of all Indian workers including youth working abroad. Our Missions and Posts abroad remain vigilant and actively monitor and follow each type of complaint received from 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 on all matters. There are dedicated Labour Wings in all Indian Missions in Gulf Countries.**

**Indian Missions/Posts regularly organize Open Houses and Consular Camps in remote areas to get feedback from Indian workers residing in such areas and to address their grievances, if any. On receipt of complaint from or on behalf of the emigrant, the same is taken up pro-actively with 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 authorities of the host country for prompt redressal.**

**Indian Missions/Posts abroad also utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide necessary assistance, on means tested basis to Indian citizens abroad and their dependents in times of distress. An amount of INR 641 crores of ICWF fund has been utilized for assisting 3,46,373 Indians in distress in foreign countries.**

**Apart from above, prospective Indian emigrant workers are imparted a Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) to sensitize them about culture, important labour laws and Dos & Don'ts about the destination country. They are also made aware of the welfare schemes like ICWF and Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) and grievance redressal mechanisms established in the Ministry and Missions / Posts abroad.**

**As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian citizens in jails abroad is 9309 (Annexure A). Due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners released. However, the issue of release and**

**repatriation of Indian nationals in foreign prisons is regularly pursued by Indian Missions and Posts abroad with the local authorities concerned. Missions/Posts abroad also approach the law enforcement agencies to complete the investigation and judicial proceedings at the earliest possible. The Government also follows up this issue during consular and other consultations with other countries. In addition, the Government, through its Missions/Posts abroad and during high level visits, also takes up and pursues grant of amnesty/commutation of sentences of Indian prisoners in foreign countries.**

**Based on MoUs signed with the GCC countries, matters related to welfare and protection of workers are taken up during regular meetings of Joint Working Groups with concerned countries. In addition, such matters are also regularly taken up with respective host governments through diplomatic channels.**

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**Annexure- A**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Indian prisoners, including undertrials, in foreign prisons</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Angola</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Argentina</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Armenia</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Austria</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Bahrain</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Belarus</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Bhutan</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Chile</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Congo (Kinshasa)</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Cuba</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Iran</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Israel</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>37</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>410</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Laos</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Liberia</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Malawi</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>388</b>
<b>47</b>	<b>Maldives</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>51</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>Nepal</b>	<b>1242</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>55</b>	<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>56</b>	<b>Oman</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>57</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>58</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>60</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>Qatar</b>	<b>611</b>
<b>62</b>	<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>63</b>	<b>Republic of Korea</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>64</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>65</b>	<b>Russia</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>66</b>	<b>Rwanda</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>67</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<b>2383</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>Senegal</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>69</b>	<b>Serbia</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>70</b>	<b>Singapore</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>71</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>72</b>	<b>Spain</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>73</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>74</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>75</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>76</b>	<b>Tajikistan</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>77</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>78</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>79</b>	<b>Togo</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>80</b>	<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>81</b>	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>82</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>83</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>84</b>	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>85</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>86</b>	<b>Yemen</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>87</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9309</b>

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