

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1889

ANSWERED ON- 02/08/2024

SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN PASSPORT OFFICES

1889. SHRI M K RAGHAVAN

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed a shortage of staff in the passport office of Kozhikode region, if so, the measures taken to address the same;**
- (b) whether the Government plans to establish a special cell to deal with repatriation of NRIs, who are in trouble for various reasons in other countries, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the latest migration figures from Kerala to various countries?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) The working strength of officers and officials of Central Passport Organization (CPO) in Regional Passport Office, Kozhikode is 69. Further, the Government has strived to augment manpower as required, by taking various steps including regular promotion of eligible officials and officers of the CPO, appointment of officers and officials in CPO on direct recruitment & deputation basis and engagement of staff on contractual basis.

(b) The Central Government has set up several mechanisms to facilitate repatriation of Indians who are in trouble in foreign countries which includes e-Migrate web portal, MADAD portal, Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayata Kendras, 24x7 Helplines, Open Houses at Indian Missions and Posts. The Indian Community Welfare Fund has been established in Indian Missions/Posts abroad for providing assistance to stranded Indians, such as boarding and lodging facilities, emergency medical care, legal assistance and air passage for repatriation to India on means tested basis.

(c) The Bureau of Immigration (BoI) deals and accords immigration clearance to those passengers who travel on valid travel documents. Human migration refers to movement of people from one place to another with intention of settling, permanently or temporarily. State-wise break-up of passports issued to Indian nationals is not available

as Indian citizens can apply for passport from anywhere in India on the basis of their present residential addresses which may be different from the states to which they actually belong. Bureau of Immigration cannot segregate State-wise data. Also, some countries provide short term visa like 'visit visa' which can be converted to other category after reaching the destination country.

However, the available Emigration Clearance (EC) data from Kerala to Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) countries, as available on eMigrate portal, is as follows:

S. No.	Country	No. of EC issued in 2024 (01.01.2024 to 22.07.2024)
1.	BAHRAIN	283
2.	IRAQ	10
3.	JORDAN	6
4.	KUWAIT	624
5.	MALAYSIA	65
6.	OMAN	1368
7.	QATAR	844
8.	SAUDI ARABIA	4716
9.	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	475
Total		8391
