

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2993
ANSWERED ON- 09/08/2024
FAKE RECRUITMENT AGENTS

†2993. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN

DR. BYREDDY SHABARI

SHRI ANTO ANTONY

SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any study/research/inquiry into the issue of fake/fraudulent immigration agencies/agents offering employment in foreign countries to Indian citizens, if so, the details regarding the total number of such agencies identified during the last three years, State-wise including Rajasthan, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government has undertaken any action against such companies/agencies, legal or otherwise, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details regarding the number of such agencies/companies that have been shut down by the Government during the last four years, State-wise including said States;

(d) whether the Government intends to introduce any scheme/initiative for regulating and reducing the number of such agencies/companies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the embassy and consulates abroad to support our nationals seeking employment in foreign countries; and

(f) the support provided to families of such trafficked youth and the assistance/rehabilitation programmes available to the youth brought back to the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) Some incidences have come to attention of the Government where Indian nationals were lured by fraudulent/fake agencies by offering fake job abroad. Complaints about fraudulent activities of illegal recruitment agents in the country are also filed by aggrieved emigrant or his/her family members/friends/relatives, who have been cheated by such agents. Based on such information, action is initiated by the Ministry and concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The complaint is referred to the respective State

police for investigation and prosecution. The status of follow up action in this regard for the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-A.

Ministry has also issued Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by State Governments on receipt of complaints against such fake agencies. The Ministry has also been coordinating with concerned stakeholders including State governments and law enforcement agencies to disseminate information about the benefits of safe and legal channels and overseas employment opportunities.

Information about illegal agents/agencies is updated on regular basis on the e-Migrate Portal. Till June 2024, a total of 3,042 illegal agents have been notified on the portal. Details of State-wise numbers of such illegal agents/agencies including from Rajasthan, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, are enclosed as Annexure-B.

(d) The process of emigration of Indian workers having Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) category passports and proceeding for overseas employment to any of the 18 ECR countries, is regulated under the Emigration Act, 1983, which is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) through Overseas Employment (OE) and Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) Division. As per this Act, no persons/agencies can function as recruiting agent/agency without obtaining a valid registration certificate issued by the registering authority.

Visual and print media campaigns are launched from time to time, encouraging emigrants to utilize the services of the registered Recruitment Agents and not to go through illegal/fake agents. These messages are also being uploaded and disseminated through social media profile of the Ministry and Missions/Post abroad and other means for greater outreach. States are also encouraged to initiate awareness campaigns disseminating activities in their respective jurisdictions.

(e & f) To ease the emigration process and facilitate the employment of Indian workers abroad, the Ministry has signed Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs) with the governments of various destination countries. These MMPAs are aimed at harnessing India's demographic dividend and fostering mobility for our students, academics, business people, and professionals and have been signed with France (2018), the UK (2021), Germany (2022), Italy, Australia and Austria (2023) and Denmark (2024).

Our Missions/Posts abroad remain vigilant and actively monitor, in case any Indian national in any foreign country needs any assistance or is in distress or have any grievance. Our nationals abroad can reach out to the Mission/Post through walk-in interview, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portal like MADAD, CPGAMS, and eMigrate, and social media etc. On receipt of any such complaint, our Missions/Posts

abroad take prompt action and appropriate measures to assist and provide relief to the aggrieved Indian national. Missions/Posts also take up these issues suitably with the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned Government agencies of the host countries like Immigration, Labour Department, Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs and law enforcement agencies. Government of India also takes up such issues at political level with the host Governments from time to time. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in New Delhi and at Dubai (UAE), Riyadh & Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide assistance, guidance, and counselling to Indian workers in distress.

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. Since year 2014 until March 2024, around Rs.656/- crores has been utilized by Indian Missions/Posts abroad under the Fund and around 3,50,194 Indians were extended assistance.

ANNEXURE-A

SI No.	State/UT	Number				ATR Submitted by State Police				Number of Cases in which request for issue of prosecution sanction after investigation				Number of Prosecution Sanction issued			
		2021	2022	2023	2024 (till June)	2021	2022	2023	2024 (till June)	2021	2022	2023	2024 (till June)	2021	2022	2023	2024 (till June)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1111	688	445	261	0	0	5*	-	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
4.	Bihar	10	2	6	5	4 (FIR registered)	0	1(FIR registered)	1(FIR registered)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chandigarh	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Delhi	1	1	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11
8.	Goa	3	14	5	1	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0				
9.	Gujarat	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

10.	Haryana	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
13.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Karnataka	6	21	32	13	0	4	6	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	3	0
15.	Kerala*	65	69	110	95	54 (FIRs registered)	47 (FIRs registered)	87 (FIRs registered)	66 (FIRs registered)	2	7	7	1	2	7	7	1
16.	Madhya Pradesh	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Maharashtra	22	8	6	2	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
18.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Mizoram	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Odisha		0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

23.	Punjab	2	23	56	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Rajasthan	91	64	35	45	24 (one FIR registered)	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	4	0	2	0
25.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	85	254	152	86	0	6	7	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
27.	Telangana	74	63	132	40	-	19	35	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
31.	West Bengal	74	10	5	8	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Total	1,553	1,227	1,006	575	82	87	147	74	7	11	15	14	7	11	15	14

*** One letter received from Andhra Pradesh Police informing that five emigrants have refused to file complaint against the agent.**

**State-wise number of illegal agents as notified on eMigrate Portal
(till June 2024)**

State	Number of illegal agents notified
Delhi	299
Punjab	209
Tamil Nadu	372
Maharashtra	337
Uttar Pradesh	418
Andhra Pradesh	498
Kerala	206
Telangana	123
Haryana	36
Gujarat	59
West Bengal	130
Karnataka	81
Rajasthan	62
Bihar	57
Madhya Pradesh	16
Puducherry	6
Uttarakhand	13
Goa	13
Himachal Pradesh	10
Jammu and Kashmir	11
Chandigarh	34
Odisha	11
Chattishgarh	4
Assam	23
Jharkhand	5
Tripura	7
Nagaland	1
Manipur	1
Total	3042
