

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:221
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
HARASSMENT TO INDIANS IN SAUDI ARABIA
A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indians working in Saudi Arabia have been subjected to harassment;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether representations from such persons have been received; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of our nationals in that country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)(b)&(c) No, Sir. However, from time to time our Mission in Saudi Arabia does receive complaints from our citizens working in Saudi Arabia, relating to violations of contractual obligations by their employer(s), such as non-payment or delayed payment of salaries, long working hours, inadequate accommodation/food, refusal to grant permission to visit India on leave or for emergencies etc.. Given the size of the Indian community in Saudi Arabia the total number of such complaints is not significant.

(d) Such complaints are promptly attended to by our Mission with the Saudi sponsor and, if necessary, with the Saudi authorities concerned through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The response of the Saudi authorities in case of labour complaints is generally sympathetic and a very large number of cases are decided in favour of workers.