

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:213
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
INDIAN EXPATRIATE WORKERS IN SAUDI ARABIA
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 1.3 million Indian expatriate workers in Saudi Arabia will be hit by proposed move by that Government to replace them with its nationals in 21 job categories;
- (b) if so, whether the Saudi Arabian Labour Ministry has already proposed gradual replacement of expatriate workers employed in these jobs over the next three years;
- (c) if so, the total number of Indians that have been affected by this decision;
- (d) whether the Government of India have taken up this issue with Saudi Arabia; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR)

- (a): The Saudi Arabian Government has decided that the number of expatriates are to be reduced over a period of ten years, i.e., by 2013, so as not to exceed 20% of the Saudi population. Further, under the nationality-wise ceiling, no single country would have an expatriate community above 5 lakhs.
- (b): In 1996, the Government of Saudi Arabia had declared the policy of "Saudiisation" i.e. to replace gradually the expatriate workforce with Saudi nationals. However inspite of the Saudi Government's announcement, Saudiisation has not so far been successful.
- (c): As per information available, it is anticipated that during the next five years there will be no significant impact of the Saudi Government's policy decision on recruitment from India.
- (d): No, Sir.
- (e): Does not arise.