

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:406
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
ALLEGED ILL TREATMENT OF INDIANS ABROAD
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether frequent cases of ill-treatment of Indians abroad have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Indian missions receive a large number of complaints of alleged ill-treatment by foreign employers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, mission-wise, during the last two years;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take stringent action against illegal recruitment agencies which lure labourers to take up menial jobs abroad;
- (f) if so, the number of complaints received during the last two years in this regard;
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interest of workers abroad; and
- (h) the stringent measures adopted/likely to be adopted against such unscrupulous agencies ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVI RAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (h) - A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (A) TO (H) IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 406 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.08.2005 REGARDING ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIANS ABROAD.

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Sporadic complaints are received from various quarters including Indian Missions, particularly in the Gulf countries, alleging ill treatment of Indian workers. These complaints relate to non-payment /reduced payment of salaries, non-availability of promised jobs, adverse working conditions or exploitation.

(d) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

(e) to (h) On receipt of complaints against illegal recruiting agencies, the concerned Protector of Emigrants, (POEs) are directed to file complaints/FIRs against such unregistered recruiting agencies for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act 1983. During the last two calendar years i.e. 2003-2004, 64 complaints have been filed with the Police authorities against such illegal recruiting agencies.

With a view to avoid exploitation of workers by unscrupulous recruiting agencies, all State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to instruct the Police Stations to keep strict vigil on the activities of the unregistered agencies engaged in illegal emigration.

With regard to workers employed abroad, the concerned Indian Mission closely monitors the situation and takes up complaints of workers with the relevant local authorities/foreign sponsors with a view to expediting the process of law and obtaining due justice. The concerned foreign employers are also called in the Mission to discuss details of the complaints in the presence of the employees for redressal of their grievances.