

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:158

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

PROTECTION OF INDIAN ABROAD

Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Meghwal Shri Kailash;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) the number of countries where NRIs is residing;
- (b) whether frequent complaints are received regarding ill-treatment of Indians in these foreign countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take concrete measures for the safety, security, assistance and welfare of these Indian workers in foreign countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the task of controlling and examining recruitment agencies has been streamlined;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard;
- (h) whether complaints of Indian nurses being lured into menial jobs in Britain have come to the notice of the Government;
- (i) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (j) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

- (a) As per the report of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, the overseas Indian community is present in 112 countries across the globe.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d)&(e) The working conditions of Indian worker in foreign countries have been under continuous study. Government is aware of ill treatment of migrant workers in many cases. The steps taken include:
  - i) Indian Missions abroad are under standing instructions to immediately take up the cases relating to maltreatment of Indian workers with the concerned local authorities for investigation. If, on investigation it is found that Indian worker has actually been maltreated, the Mission assists the Indian worker in filing the complaint with appropriate authorities and obtaining justice.
  - ii) Cases of short-or irregular payment of wages and other matters are also taken up with the concerned Ministries and pressure brought upon the foreign employer to settle the grievances of the workers.
  - iii) When complaints are made to the Protector General of Emigrants, the recruiting agent involved is also directed to solve the problem. If he fails to settle the matter, action is taken to initially suspend and thereafter cancel the registration certificate of the agent and forfeit his Bank guarantee.
  - iv) Foreign employers who violate the terms of the employment are blacklisted and barred from further recruitment.

(f) &(g) In terms of Section 10 of the emigration Act, 1983, no recruiting agent can commence or carry on the business of recruitment except under and in accordance with a certificate issued in that behalf by the registering authority. The procedure of registration, terms and conditions of registration and the grounds on which a registration certificate can be cancelled have been spelt out in the Emigration Act itself.

(h) to (j) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.