

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1164
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
PLIGHT OF IMMIGRANTS OVERSEAS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Shukla Smt. Karuna

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

- (a) the number of Indians emigrated and working in various foreign countries, country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the exploitation and problems is being faced by Indian labourers and the NRIs working in various countries especially in Gulf;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the incidents of delay in sending homes the bodies of those who died abroad;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the diplomatic missions are given adequate funds to meet the expenses in case of exigencies;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government to redress the grievances of Indian labourers?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) : A statement indicating the number of Indians emigrated to various countries after obtaining emigration clearance during last three years is enclosed (Annexure-I).
- (b) & (c): Complaints are received from time to time from the Indian nationals working abroad, particularly in Gulf countries, regarding non-payment of salaries, ill-treatment and poor living conditions. On the basis of complaints received, 329 foreign employers have been black-listed.
- (d) & (e): Ordinarily there are no cases of delay in repatriation of mortal remains of Indians who die while working abroad. It generally takes 7 to 10 days for the process to complete. However, delays are sometimes experienced in cases of unnatural deaths as investigations and formalities take longer time to complete.
- (f) & (g): Indian Missions have been providing necessary assistance to Indian nationals in case of exigencies as per the provisions contained in the Consular Manual.
- (h) : The Indian Missions take up the grievances with the local employers as well as local government authorities. Legal and counselor assistance is also provided to the workers by the missions. Assistance is rendered to the affected workers in coordination with the expatriate Indian associations. Besides, in case the grievances of the workers relate to registered recruiting agents in India, appropriate penal action is taken under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. In case of involvement of an unregistered recruiting agent, matter is referred to the concerned police authorities concerned for proceeding against the agent for violation of the Emigration Act, 1983.