

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2027  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004  
PROBLEMS OF NRIS IN GULF COUNTRIES  
Majhi Shri Parsuram;Singh Shri Dushyant

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by NRIs in Gulf countries; and  
(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve their problems?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMED)

(a) Yes.OPEN HOUSE from 2 p.m to 5 p.m in Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate General in Jeddah for Indian Nationals to interact started and to continue on every Second Thursday of month;

(b) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the problems of NRIs in the Gulf are as follows:

- 1.Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2003 organised a special session on the NRIs in the Gulf to understand and appreciate their concerns.
2. A compulsory insurance scheme called the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojna was introduced in December 2003.
3. One third seats out of the 15% supernumerary seats across different disciplines in educational institutions have been reserved for children of NRIs in the Gulf at the fees applicable to resident Indians.
4. A Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra is being established in New Delhi as an autonomous institution to promote multi- dimensional welfare of the Indian Diaspora including NRIs in the Gulf.
5. Ministry of External Affairs in coordination with UAE Embassy in New Delhi, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Government of Kerala have streamlined the procedure for attestation of educational certificates.
- 6.Mortal remains of NRIs who pass away in the Gulf are brought free by the Air India.
7. Establishment of a Welfare Fund for Indian workers in Gulf is also underway.
8. Indian Diplomatic Missions in the Gulf are under instructions to attend to the issues relating to NRIs promptly and take them up constantly with the host Governments and other relevant agencies.
9. A helpline for 24 hours on seven days a week is being set up in Embassy in Riyadh for contacting Embassy whenever there is any problem like accident, death, compensation problem, consular issues etc.