

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4086
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
MANPOWER EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set-up Manpower Export Promotion Council to regulate hiring practices for overseas jobs;
- (b) if so, whether there is a proposal to open a nodal office for the council in Delhi;
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry of Labour has been asked to set-up a welfare fund for the Indian Diaspora in various countries;
- (d) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote multidimensional welfare of NRIs including workers of Gulf countries;
- (e) whether the Government is examining the feasibility of increasing the staff strength in embassies; and
- (f) if so, the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) No.
- (b) &(c) Do not arise.
- (d) Steps taken by the Government to promote multidimensional welfare of Overseas Indians are as following:
 1. Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas as an annual event to bring Overseas Indians on one platform.
 2. Setting up of a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.
 3. Setting up of a separate Ministry for Overseas Indians.
 4. Conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards to recognize the achievements of the Indian Diaspora.
 5. Launching of Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana for emigrant workers in December 2003.
 6. Reservation of seats in educational institutions for children of NRIs in Gulf
- (e) No.
- (f) Does not arise.