

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1893

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008

FRAMING OF GUIDELINES FOR HOUSEMAIDS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT ABROAD

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy; Verma Shri Ravi Prakash; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has revised minimum wages for Indian housemaids seeking employment in the United Arab Emirates as reported in The Hindu dated February 02, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has set up new guidelines/conditions for recruitment of housemaids abroad;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for welfare of Indian housemaids seeking employment abroad?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d) The Government has prescribed a minimum wage for women household service workers emigrating to the Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries including the United Arab Emirates. The minimum wage will be fixed by the Indian Missions concerned in the range of US \$ 300-350 after taking into account the prevailing market wage in that country.
- (e) Several measures have been taken by the Government for the better protection and welfare of our workers, especially the vulnerable sections like women emigrants. These include:
- (i) Installation of a 24/7 Helpline.
 - (ii) Application of the minimum age restriction of 30 years to all women emigrating on ECR stamped passport.
 - (iii) Stipulation of a security deposit of US \$ 2500 per worker from the foreign employer directly hiring any Indian worker.
 - (iv) Compulsory attestation of employment documents of all women emigrants with ECR stamped passport.
 - (v) Opening of Overseas Indian Workers Resource Centre in host countries to serve as a one-stop service outlet for addressing the information and assistance needs of emigrant workers.
 - (vi) Operating shelters for distressed emigrants.
 - (vii) Media campaign launched to educate potential women emigrants.
 - (viii) Introduction of a program for the development of the required skills for the household service workers so that they do not face harassment on account of lack of skills.