

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:632

ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008

WELFARE FUND FOR EMIGRANTS

Jindal Shri Naveen;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has established a welfare fund for the benefit of emigrants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the funds released and utilised therefrom so far;
- (d) whether there is any scheme for upgrading the skills of emigrants to enhance their prospects; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c) : A proposal to establish an 'Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)' to provide funding support to the Indian Missions in the Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) Countries for the welfare of the workers who are in distress is under the consideration of the Government. The details of the Scheme are being finalized.

(d) & (e): The Ministry has undertaken a Scheme for Skill Up-gradation and Pre-departure Orientation of prospective emigrant workers. The objective of the Scheme is to upgrade the skills of the Indian workers and equip them with the basic knowledge about laws, language and culture of the destination Countries with a view to enhance their prospects in the overseas employment market and to enable them to move up in the wage chain. The Scheme is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), select State Governments, apex Industrial Associations and leading NGOs in the field. The Ministry is extending financial assistance @ Rs. 5000/- per trainee to these implementing Agencies.