

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6449
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
EMIGRATION FEES
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) the total amount collected as emigration fee during the last three years;
- (b) whether there is any proposal for using a part of this money for the welfare of overseas Indians;
- (c) the present status of proposed welfare fund scheme for overseas Indians;
- (d) whether there is any time limit for the implementation of the said scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The total amount of Emigration Fee collected during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is Rs. 18.67 Crores, Rs. 16.61 Crores and Rs. 11.79 Crores, respectively.

(b): The Fee collected is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. For welfare activities, the expenditure is incurred from the Ministry's Budget.

(c) to (e): The Ministry has set up the 'Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)' in the Indian Missions in 42 countries which have more than 50,000 Overseas Indian populations, to provide on-site welfare for the Overseas Indian Citizens who are in distress in those countries. The Fund is aimed at providing the following services on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases:

- (i) Boarding and lodging for distressed overseas Indian workers in Household / domestic sectors and unskilled labourers;
- (ii) Extending emergency medical care to the overseas Indians in need;
- (iii) Providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in need;
- (iv) Providing initial legal assistance to the overseas Indians in deserving cases.

(v) Expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

The ICWF is funded through budgetary support from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, funds raised by the Indian Missions by levying a service charge on consular services and through Voluntary contributions from the Indian community. The Fund will be administered by the respective Heads of Missions.