

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:465
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
EXPLOITATION OF INDIANS IN GULF COUNTRIES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the incidents of exploitation of Indian nationals in Gulf countries are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Agreement has been signed by the Government with the Gulf countries to check incidents of exploitation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review the above Agreement; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Complaints relating to exploitation of emigrant workers in Gulf Countries have come to the notice of the Government.

(b): Over the years emigration to Gulf Countries has risen (Annexure-I). The details of the complaints received against the registered agents as well as unregistered agents during the last three years and action taken thereon are given in table A & B respectively of Annexure-II. These complaints pertain to 17 notified countries for which emigration clearance is required (Annexure-III) out of these six are in Gulf region.

(c) & (d): India has signed a Labour Welfare Agreement with Qatar. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Labour welfare were signed with United Arab of Emirates (UAE) in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April, 2007, with Oman in November 2008, and with Bahrain in June, 2009. An Additional Protocol to the existing Labour Agreement between India and Qatar was signed in November, 2007.

Under these Agreements & MOUs, Joint Working Groups (JWG) have been constituted to ensure their implementation. Issues relating to the welfare of Indian workers are taken up during the regular meetings of these JWGs.

(e) & (f): No, sir.