

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:607
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN WOMEN
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that women from India are being exploited in foreign country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop such incidents in future?

Answer

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

- (a): Complaints relating to exploitation of Indian women emigrant workers have come to the notice of the Government from time to time.
- (b) & (c): The Government has taken various measures for protecting the safety and welfare of women migrant workers of the ECR (Emigration Check Required) category who emigrate to 17 notified (ECR) countries. These include:-
 - (i) Age restriction of 30 years has been made mandatory in respect of all such women emigrants.
 - (ii) The employment contract must be duly attested by the Indian Missions in respect of all such women.
 - (iii) Women household workers are allowed to emigrate after the Indian mission has attested the identity of the foreign employer and terms and conditions of contract. A pre-paid mobile facility must be provided by the employer to every woman Household Worker. If the Foreign Employer recruits the worker directly, he is required to deposit a security of \$2500 with the Indian Mission.
 - (iv) The Ministry has set up the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) with a 24x7 Helpline to enable emigrant workers / prospective emigrants including women to obtain information on all emigration related matters and to seek redressal of their complaints.
 - (v) The Ministry has also launched a vigorous Awareness Campaign through the print and electronic media to sensitize potential emigrant workers including women emigrants about the legal emigration process and hazards of illegal emigration.
 - (vi) Indian Community Welfare Fund has been established in 42 Countries including all ECR countries. Help is provided by the Indian mission out of this fund to all Indian Workers & especial women, emigrants who are stranded, are in need of assistance.