

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
REHABILITATION OF EXPATRIATED WORKERS
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of expatriation of Indian workers from foreign countries particularly from the Gulf in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take steps for the rehabilitation of such workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 143 due for answer on 4.8.2010 regarding 'Rehabilitation of Expatriated Workers'.

(a) to (d): There is an estimated 5 million Indian migrant workers working in GCC Countries and Malaysia. Typically, they go on 2-3 years contracts and return on completion of their contractual period.

Following the global economic recession, the Government decided to conduct a study on its impact on Indian migrant workers in the GCC Countries and Malaysia. The findings of the study indicate that there has not been any major adverse impact on Indian expatriate workers in Gulf & Malaysia except in terms of some job losses, reduction in salary and over time.

The impact of the global recession on emigration and emigrant workers is summarized in Statement as per Annexure- I attached.

In addition, the Heads of Missions were also requested to ascertain whether there has been any adverse impact of the economic slowdown on the migrant Indian workers. The Reports of the Indian Heads of Mission do not indicate any mass return of Indian workers back to India, except in the case of Emirate of Dubai where the number of returnees was significantly higher than normal for reasons which were prevailing temporarily over there and unique to the Emirate of Dubai. However, as a result of the global economic situation, job opportunities in some of the Gulf Countries has decreased as borne out by the drop in Emigration Clearance given in 2009 as compared to the previous years shown below :

Year ECR Clearance given
(in lakhs)

2007 8.09 lakhs

2008 8.49 lakhs

2009 6.10 lakhs

While there is no proposal to establish a rehabilitation fund for returning Indian workers in the context of economic slow down in the Gulf, the Government is separately examining the feasibility of establishing a Contributory Pension scheme for overseas Indian workers.