

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2808  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010  
SOCIAL SECURITY OF WORKERS  
Patel Shri R.K. Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme to provide social security-cum-insurance cover to protect the migrant workers from misbehaviour/retrenchment by the placement agencies during their job in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make the migration process more transparent and legal?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): The Government introduced a compulsory insurance scheme called Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) in 2003 for the emigrant workers. As of now the scheme provides an insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh in case of death or permanent disability, medical benefit upto 75,000, legal assistance upto Rs 30,000, maternity benefit of Rs 25,000, air passage in case of repatriation due to loss of employment and transportation of mortal remains in case of death.

Further, Government is currently examining the feasibility of setting up a co-contributory Return and Rehabilitation Fund (R&RF) for overseas Indian workers to provide for resettlement on return, old age security and life insurance.

(c) The Ministry is implementing an 'e-Migrate' Project with technical assistance from the National Institute of Smart Government (NISG), Hyderabad, to make emigration a simple, transparent, effective and efficient process. The project is estimated to be completed by end of 2011. To provide information and counseling services to emigrants and to address information asymmetry, the Government has set up an Overseas Workers Resource Center in New Delhi and Migrant Resource Centers in Kochi and Hyderabad.