

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4050
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010
LABOURERS IN CAMPS
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Indian workers are living in local camps in Sharjah without any water or electricity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said labourers have not been paid their wages for the last six months; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to help the Indian labourers in getting their due wages and for bringing them back to India?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): The Consulate General of India, Dubai has reported that about 400 Indian workers of Portland Marine Technical Services (PMTS) LLC, Sharjah, a company owned and managed by Indian nationals, struck work about 2 months ago as they had not been paid wages for about four months and their living conditions were deteriorating day-by-day. This company has been facing liquidity issues since the beginning of this year. The company employees were housed in two labour camps in Sajja area of Sharjah. Only one of the labour camps housing 100 Indian workers did not have regular electricity supply and was being serviced by a generator.

(c): Yes sir, The Indian workers have not been paid wages for about five to six months as on date.

(d): The Indian Consulate in Dubai has alerted the local Ministry of Labour about the plight of the workers and simultaneously met the representatives of PMTS (since one owner was in prison and the other one was absconding) towards resurrecting the company and prevailing upon them to take responsibility for its employees. Finding that efforts to resolve the situation were not successful the Labour Ministry started repatriating the Indian workers in batches. Till July, 2010, a total of 267 workers had been repatriated to India according to the UAE Labour Ministry. The workers were paid the equivalent of Rs. 40,000/- each besides air tickets. About 120 workers are staying back to try their luck elsewhere or are victims of credit defaults on loans taken in their names by PMTS. It will take some time before these workers with credit defaults can find an honorable exit out of the UAE.