

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4132

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

SAFETY AND SECURITY OF INDIANS ABROAD

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

- (a) the manner in which the Government provides security/assistance to the Indians living abroad;
- (b) whether the Government has signed any social security/safety agreements with the foreign countries to protect Indian citizens in those countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the assistance provided to the Indian citizens during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the details of the countries with which such agreements are likely to be signed in the near future?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): Security and safety of Indians living abroad are taken care of by the host country under their national laws. However, where necessary, the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad extend assistance as required to overseas Indians.

(b) to (d): The Government has signed Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Hungary, Denmark and the Czech Republic. Agreements with Canada, Republic of Korea and Norway have been finalized and will be signed shortly. Out of the above, the SSAs with Belgium and Germany are in force presently.

Discussions with Sweden, Australia, USA and Japan are being pursued.

The social security agreements provide for exemption from social security contribution by Indian posted (detached) workers (provided the worker is covered under the Indian social security system and continues to pay his contribution to the Indian system during the period of contract), portability of benefits irrespective of residence; and totalization of contribution periods to fulfill the minimum contribution period criteria for eligibility to benefits. In addition, Labour Protection Agreements / MoU's have also been signed with the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Malaysia for the better protection and welfare of overseas Indian workers in these countries. These agreements/ MoU's provide for a Joint Working Group that meets once a year to address problems of workers.