

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3517

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Panda Shri Baijayant;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether India and Norway have signed a Social Security Agreement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said agreement;
- (c) the details of the sectors likely to be benefited by the said agreement;
- (d) the extent to which bilateral trade will boost;
- (e) the name of the countries with whom India has signed similar agreements earlier;
- (f) the extent to which India has been benefited so far by such agreements;
- (g) whether India is likely to sign similar agreements with USA; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : The Social Security Agreement between India and Norway was signed on 29th October, 2010 at New Delhi. The Agreement provides, on a reciprocal basis, for the following benefits to Indian nationals working in Norway:

(i) For the first sixty months no social security contribution would need to be paid under the Norwegian law by the detached Indian employed person. The period of sixty months may be extended beyond sixty months with the mutual consent.

(ii) The above provision of detachment shall apply where a person who has been sent by his employer from India to the territory of a third country is subsequently sent by that employer from the territory of the third country to Norway.

(iii) Social Security benefits acquired by an Indian national while working in Kingdom of Norway can be paid on relocation to India.

(iv) For the acquisition, retention or recovery of the right to old-age, disability or survivors' pension, the insurance periods completed pursuant to the Indian legislation concerning old-age, disability or survivors' pension are totalized, when necessary and to the extent that they do not overlap, with the insurance periods completed pursuant to the Norwegian legislation.

(c) : The Social Security Agreement covers Indian nationals working in all sectors.

(d) : The SSA would make Indian companies more competitive since exemption from social security contribution in respect of their employees posted overseas reduces costs and thereby promote investment and trade.

(e) & (f) : India has signed Social Security Agreements with Belgium, France, Germany (Agreement on Social Insurance), Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Hungary, Denmark, Czech Republic, Republic of Korea and Norway. So far, agreements with two countries i.e. Belgium and Germany have been notified and made effective from 1st September, and 1st October, 2009 respectively. As on 29.11.2010, 2750 Indian employees posted in these two countries have been granted exemption from making contribution to the Social Security Legislation of these countries.

(g) & (h) : Preliminary discussions with USA for entering into a Social Security Agreement have been held.