

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3166

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010

MIGRATION OF WORKERS

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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian women victims of poverty and abandonment are increasingly migrating overseas through illegal channels;
- (b) if so, whether racket of sending poor girls from various parts of the country to the Gulf countries on the pretext of providing lucrative jobs have been increased;
- (c) if so, the details and number of cases during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the action taken thereon;
- (e) the gravity of this menace and the concrete measures taken by the Government to unearth such rackets and punish the culprits to effectively control this anti-social practice;
- (f) whether the Government advises to workers and labourers emigrating to other countries including Malaysia;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (e): Some instances of sending poor girls abroad have come to the notice of the Government. When complaints from emigrants in general are received alleging malpractices/exploitation/abuse, action is taken against the intermediaries and employers after enquiry. A statement on the complaints received is placed at Annexure.

(d) to (h): The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Core-Group on irregular migration to guide and monitor action against irregular migration. The Government has taken various measures for protecting the safety and welfare of women migrant workers of the ECR (Emigration Check Required) category who emigrate to 17 notified (ECR) countries. These include :-

(i) Age restriction of 30 years has been made mandatory in respect of all such women emigrants.

(ii) The identity of the foreign employer and the employment contract must be duly attested by the Indian Missions in respect of all such women.

(iii) A pre-paid mobile facility must be provided by the employer to every woman Household Worker, If the Foreign Employer recruits the worker directly, he is required to deposit a security of \$2500 with the Indian Mission.

(iv) The Government has set up the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) with a 24x7 Helpline to enable emigrant workers/prospective emigrants including women to obtain information on all emigration related matters and to seek redressal of their complaints.

(v) The Government has also launched a vigorous Awareness Campaign through the print and electronic media to sensitize potential emigrant workers including women emigrants about the legal emigration process and hazards of illegal emigration.

(vi) Indian Community Welfare Fund has been established in 42 Countries including all ECR countries. Help is provided by the Indian Mission out of this fund to all Indian workers & especially women emigrants who are stranded, are in need of assistance.

(vii) An Indian Workers Resource Centre has been established in United Arab of Emirates (UAE).

(viii) Further, the Government has made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the major receiving Countries for ensuring protection and welfare of our emigrants. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with United Arab of Emirates (UAE) in December 2006, with Kuwait in April 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009, and with Bahrain on 17th June 2009.

