

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2528

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

WELFARE OF LABOURERS

Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) the country-wise details of total number of Indian Nationals living in different countries of the world;
- (b) whether the Government maintains any register of Indian citizens working in foreign countries;
- (c) if so, whether the Indian Commission abroad are given the list of such people employed in the respective country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Overseas Indians mostly comprise labourer class;
- (f) if so, the nature of labour laws in force for these labourers; and
- (g) the measures being taken by his Ministry so that labourers could not be exploited?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) : As per information compiled from the Indian Missions a statement indicating the estimated number of Overseas Indians (Comprising Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin) is enclosed at Annexure-A.
- (b) : No, Sir.
- (c) & (d): Does not arise.
- (e) : The Overseas Indians comprise of all categories of workers including professionals, skilled and semi skilled workers.
- (f) : The local laws of the host countries are applicable to overseas Indians residing there.
- (g) : The Government has taken several initiatives to protect the Indian workers and for the welfare of Overseas Indians. These include the following:
  - (i) The Ministry has notified the Emigration (Amendment) Rules 2009 on 9th July, 2009 revising the eligibility criteria of Recruiting Agents (RAs) and increasing the security amount.
  - (ii) A Nation-wide Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign is conducted every year to create wider awareness among the public and particularly among potential emigrants on the risks of illegal migration and safeguards against illegal practices by unauthorized intermediaries and fraudulent recruiting agencies.
  - (iii) The Ministry has set up the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in 42 Countries for providing onsite support and financial assistance to Indian workers in distress.
  - (iv) An Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) runs as a 24X7 helpline in 7 languages which provides information to Overseas Workers as well as prospective emigrants. Complaints can also be lodged with OWRC.
  - (v) An Indian Workers Resource Centre has been established in UAE.
  - (vi) Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a compulsory insurance scheme for protection of emigrant workers.
  - (vii) Measures have been taken to protect the Welfare of Indian women working overseas in the household/ domestic sector: A minimum age limit of 30 years has been prescribed, the employer has to be attested by the Indian mission, has to make a deposit of US \$ 2500, with the Indian mission as security.
  - (viii) India had signed Labour Agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s to protect the interest of the Indian Workers. Memoranda of

Understanding (MOU) were signed with United Arab Emirates (UAE) in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April, 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009, and with Bahrain in June 2009. An Additional Protocol to the existing Labour Agreement between India and Qatar was signed in November, 2007.

These MOUs enhance bilateral co-operation in management of migration and protection of labour welfare. Under these MOUs a Joint Working Groups (JWGs) have been constituted that meet regularly in order to resolve bilateral labour issues.