

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2109  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011  
LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
Pandey Saroj

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to provide legal assistance to Indians in foreign countries who have fallen victim to frauds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) The Government provides legal assistance to Indians in foreign countries through Indian Missions abroad.

(b)

(i) The Ministry provides legal and financial assistance to Indian women who are victims of fraudulent marriages and deserted by their overseas Indian husbands or are facing divorce proceedings in a foreign country through Indian Missions in USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Gulf. The funds are placed at the disposal of the Indian Missions/Posts. This scheme, introduced in 2006, provides assistance limited to US\$ 1,500 per case for meeting the legal costs and incidental charges for documentation and filing of the case by the Indian women's organization/NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions/Posts.

(ii) Ministry has set up the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) at the disposal of the Indian Missions in 42 countries to meet contingency expenditure incurred by the Indian Missions for carrying out onsite welfare measures for overseas Indian workers in distress including initial legal assistance in deserving cases.

(iii) An Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) has also been set up in the Indian Mission in Dubai, UAE which provides 24x7 assistance to the Indian workers in that country. One of the objectives of IWRC is to extend legal, financial and medical counseling to the workers.