

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2134

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

FRAUDULENT AGENTS

Alagiri Shri S. ;Thomas Shri P. T.;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether a large number of workers migrate/sent by recruitment agencies abroad for job/work;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;
- (c) whether any complaints have been received by the Government from the Overseas Indian workers related to fraudulent offers for overseas employment, contractual violations and cheating on the part of foreign employers/recruiting agents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof for last three years, country-wise and year-wise;
- (e) the number of agencies found guilty during the above said period;
- (f) the action taken against them during the last three years, case-wise;
- (g) the number of registered recruitment agencies functioning in the country particularly in Rajasthan, State-wise; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government to protect the workers from cheating by the recruitment agents/their foreign employers?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of workers in respect of whom emigration clearance has been granted are at Annexure-I.

(c) From time to time complaints relating to false/forged travel documents provided by recruiting agents to emigrant workers come to the notice of the Government. Most of the complaints relate to not being provided promised job, non-payment of wages by the foreign employer, poor working conditions & accommodation, deployment of workers for employment on visit/commercial visas, etc.

(d), (e) & (f) Immediate action is initiated in such cases under the Emigration Act, 1983 to suspend/cancel the registration certificate of the registered recruiting agents and to file FIRs against the offenders, if required. During 2009 the Protector General of Emigrants suspended/cancelled 54 Registration Certificates. Position relating to complaints received against registered recruiting agents during the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of com-plaints	Show Cause Notices issued	No. of Registration Certificates dropped/ being Suspended/ resolved	No. of Complaints which are followed up	Cases pending cancelled
2008	118	118	29	89	0
2009	158	158	54	41	63
2010	145	145	33	27	85

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Country-wise data is not maintained.

Indian Missions also recommend inclusion of such foreign employer in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) based on the merits of the cases. On the basis of such recommendations, Ministry places the concerned foreign employers in the Prior Approval Category. A foreign employers - when included in the Prior Approval Category list - is no longer allowed to recruit workers from India unless approved by the Indian Mission in that country. Presently, 406 foreign employers are in the Prior Approval Category list. The country-wise break up is at Annexure-II.

(g) As on 03-12-2010 there were 1655 registered recruiting agencies and out these, 20 registered recruiting agents were from

Rajasthan. State-wise details are given in Annexure-III.

(h) For the protection and welfare of the emigrants, the following preventive measures have been taken by the Government:

i) Age restriction of 30 years for all women emigrating on ECR of Overseas passports.

ii) A 24x7 Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) helpline has been set up to enable emigrants/ prospective emigrants to seek information and file complaints against Recruiting Agents/Foreign Employers;

A comprehensive Insurance Scheme, viz. Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2006, is in place, which was further upgraded with effect from 1.4.2008;

A vigorous campaign in the print and electronic media to educate potential emigrants, including labourers and other vulnerable sections like women emigrants, is undertaken on regular basis to propagate the benefits of legal migration and hazards of legal and illegal migration;

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs coordinates with the State Government authorities, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for making necessary arrangements for transportation of the migrant and for ensuring their safe passage back to their respective homes, if need be.

Indian Community Welfare Fund has been established in 42 countries including all ECR countries for on-site welfare of emigrants.