

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:639  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011  
NURSES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaint from the nurses working in foreign countries especially Saudi Arabia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to channelize recruitment, prevent fraud committed by unauthorized and private recruitment agencies?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Indian Embassy in Riyadh (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) has informed that they have received representations from the individual nurses and also from various authorities in India regarding abrupt termination of the services of eight Indian nurses working in Tabarajal General Hospital, Al Jouf a Government of Kingdom Saudi Arabia Hospital. Seven of the Indian nurses had completed just one year of service and another has put in one and half years of service. All the eight affected nurses have been employed on one year contract which are renewable annually.

The Indian Mission in Riyadh has taken up the matter with the concerned government authorities in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It has been informed that the services of the eight nurses have been terminated under the instructions of Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in accordance with the provisions of their contract.

The Hospital authorities have informed about the termination of 55 nurses from different countries such as Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, India and other countries.

(c): Indian workers emigrate abroad for seeking employment in all categories of work ranging from low skilled to high skilled professional jobs. Emigration of Indian workers is regulated in respect of ECR (Emigration Check Required) category of workers. This category includes those workers who hold ECR passports and are emigrating to 17 notified countries. Nurses being skilled workers and generally holding ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) passports, do not require emigration clearance.

In this instant case there seems to be no fraud involved. It is reported that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have become very proactive in employing their own nationals whereby Indian nurses have been affected.

It is stated that for channelising the recruitment process of professional and skilled Indian workers, the Government enters into a Labour Mobility Partnership Agreement with the host country. One such agreement has been entered with Denmark which facilitates recruitment of doctors and nurses to Denmark.