

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3501
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011
ILL TREATMENT OF WORKERS IN MALAYSIA
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Sharma Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the ill treatment meted out to 17 labourers from Jharkhand/Bihar by their employer M/s. J.M. Power Corporation Ltd. in Malaysia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Seventeen Indian nationals, belonging to the State of Jharkhand and employed for a three year period w.e.f. 28.11.2009 by the Malaysian company M/s J N Power Construction (M) Sdn. Bhd., complained on 22.6.2011 to Indian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur that they have not been paid their wages since January 2011. Since the workers left their job, arrangements were made by the High Commission for their boarding and lodging and repatriation.

(c): The Indian High Commission has taken following steps to redress their problem:

The High Commission Immediately (on 23.6.2011) called the employer to the Mission premises and discussed the issue in presence of the concerned Indian nationals. The employer agreed to settle all dues.

With Mission`s efforts, salaries for the months of January and February were paid by the company. But the company has not yet paid from March onwards, despite having agreed to do so.

Since the concerned Indian nationals refused to work with the company, the High Commission retrieved their passports from the employer and has kept them in its custody. The workers are being given free boarding and lodging at the Centre for Shelter-cum-Counseling, managed by the Indian High Commission. All the seventeen workers have since been repatriated to India on 16.08.2011.

The High Commission has drawn the attention of the Malaysian authorities (Director General of Labour of Malaysia and the Ministry of Human Resource of Malaysia), to the non- fulfillment of contractual terms by the company, requesting them to intervene to amicably settle the issue, i.e., payment of the dues and completion of repatriation formalities. It has also sought a meeting with the Director General of Labour of Malaysia in relation to this case.

The concerned Indian Agent, Hyderabad based M/s Razzak Enterprises, has also been contacted by the Mission to help resolve the problem. The agent has agreed to fly to Malaysia and persuade the employer to settle the dues and complete departure formalities.