

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011
INDIANS EMPLOYED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES
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Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians working abroad, country-wise;
- (b) the details of the foreign exchange received by the country annually from them, country-wise;
- (c) whether Indians are subjected to ill treatment in many countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the security of Indians abroad?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.184 dated 7.12.2011 regarding Indians Employed in Foreign Countries

(a) Indian workers emigrate for seeking employment in all categories of work ranging from low skilled to high skilled professional jobs. Data is available only for ECR (Emigration Check Required) category of workers going abroad. This category includes those workers who have not passed class 10 level school certificate and are emigrating to 17 ECR notified countries. The details of ECR Category workers who emigrated to 17 notified countries during 2008, 2009 and 2010 and 2011 (upto October, 2011) are at Annexure-I.

(b) The details of the foreign exchange received is as per the following table.

Table 1: Details of Remittances to India (US \$ billion)

Year Total Private Transfer

1 2

2010-11 (P) 55.9
2009-10 (PR) 53.9
2008-09 46.9
2007-08 43.5

PR: Partially Revised. P: Preliminary

The source and destination wise information about private transfers is gathered through a periodic (every three years) sample survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India. As per the last survey which was conducted in November, 2009, Gulf Countries accounted for 27 percent of total remittances during the first half of 2009-10.

(c) to (e) Instances of complaints of diverse nature are received in the missions which relate to contractual violations such as non-payment or delay in payment of salary/ wages and other benefits, refusal of leave or exit / re-entry permits for visits to India, refusal to send the worker back home on final exit visa, non-issue or non-renewal of residence permit, illegal deductions from the salary/wages or salary or job not given as per the contract, heavy workload, maltreatment, harassment etc.

The Government has taken several steps to address the issue of Indian emigrants, which include the following:-

- (i) Nation-wide awareness campaigns through the media to educate intending emigrants about legal emigration procedures, the risk of illegal migration and precautions to be taken during emigration.
- (ii) The Government has established an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) which is a 24 hour telephone helpline in eight languages to provide authentic information to emigrants as well as intending emigrants on all aspects of emigration.
- (iii) The Government has established Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in all Indian Missions to provide onsite support to the affected emigrants.
- (iv) Government has established an Indian Workers Resource Centre(IWRC) at UAE.
- (v) The Government has signed MOUs with seven major labour receiving countries to lay down the framework for bilateral cooperation for the protection and welfare of workers.
- (vi) The Ministry revised the Emigration (Amendment) Rules 2009 w.e.f. 9th July, 2009 revising the eligibility criteria for Recruiting Agents (RAs).
- (vii) In case, the involvement of a recruiting agent is reported then action under Emigration Act, 1983 is taken. Moreover, blacklisting of recalcitrant employers is also resorted to.
- (viii) Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana(PBBY) is a compulsory Insurance Scheme for protection of emigrant workers.