

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1218
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
LABOURERS TO OTHER COUNTRIES
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab;Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed any agreements with certain countries to send labourers there during the last three years till date;
- (b) if so, whether any provisions have been made in these agreements for providing wages and other facilities to the labourers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the names of the places where these labourers are likely to be sent;
- (d) whether it is a fact that in absence of any bilateral agreement with many receiving countries, migrant labourers are being exploited;and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) & (b) No, Madam. However, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has entered into bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) to ensure better protection and welfare of Indian emigrants with three countries viz. Malaysia (January, 2009), Bahrain (June, 2009) and UAE (September, 2011) respectively.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d & e) The Government has taken several steps to address the issues of Indian emigrants, which include the following:-
 - (i) Nation-wide awareness campaigns through the media to inform 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 Funds (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.