

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:249  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012  
DEATH OF FOUR INDIAN WORKERS IN BAHRAIN  
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

(a) Whether there are reports of four Workers from Kerala having died of inhaling poisonous gas in Bahrain due to lack of proper amenities in their lodgings; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure better quarters and living for Indian workers working in the Middle Eastern and Arab countries?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Indian Mission in Bahrain has informed that five Indian nationals had rented one room. Due to cold weather in Bahrain they had decided to use an empty paint tin containing firewood, and lighted it to get some warmth. This burning of the firewood resulted in poisonous carbon monoxide emission which was responsible for the death of four Indian workers, and the hospitalization of a fifth worker who is in a serious condition.

The Indian Mission has informed that many Indian workers in Bahrain are living on modest wages and they make their own group-accommodation to save money.

The Government in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has taken several initiatives to protect the welfare of overseas Indian workers which include:-

(i) India had signed Labour Agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s to protect the interest of the Indian Workers. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed with United Arab Emirates (UAE) in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April, 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009, and with Bahrain in June 2009. An Additional Protocol to the existing Labour Agreement between India and Qatar was signed in November, 2007.

(ii) These MOUs enhance bilateral co-operation in management of migration and protection of labour welfare. Under these MOUs a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted that meets regularly in order to resolve bilateral labour issues.

In these Joint Working Groups, protection and welfare of the workers, compliance of contractual provisions of employment to be provided by the foreign employer relating to proper accommodation, working and living conditions are impressed upon.