

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3381

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012

PROTOCOL WITH UAE

Das Shri Khagen;Sudhakaran Shri K.;Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been preferred destination for skilled and unskilled Indian workers;
- (b) if so, the details of the workers presently working in UAE;
- (c) whether the Government of India has recently concluded a protocol with the Government of UAE to streamline the employment process of Indian workers through an electronic contract registration and validation system;
- (d) if so, the salient features of the said protocol; and
- (e) the modalities/requirements to be fulfilled by Indian workers before the Labour Department of UAE to get the above facilities?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) United Arab Emirates is one of the preferred destinations for Indian workers going overseas for employment. However, many Indian workers also go for employment to other Gulf countries as well.

(b) Approximately 1.5 million Indian workers are estimated to be working in UAE.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The UAE Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs have agreed to jointly deploy an electronic contract registration and validation system that ensures:

Full transparency of the contract terms; Disclosure of such terms to the prospective worker and securing the worker's informed consent to the same terms prior to being deployed to the UAE; Approval by the concerned Indian government agencies of the terms of the contract for the purpose of granting emigration clearance to the prospective worker, and Non-substitution of any of the agreed-to terms of employment in the final and official contract document to be signed by the worker and the employer after the former's arrival in the UAE.

(e) The protocol mandates the informed consent and approval of the worker, the employer and the competent Indian authorities, of the full terms of the work contract prior to the worker's deployment to the UAE. The contract terms are, in turn, captured in the contract document that is eventually signed by the worker and employer in the UAE and duly registered with the Ministry of Labour. The new system is activated by an online application by a UAE employer for the granting of work permits that requires disclosure of the key terms of the employment offer. The UAE (Ministry of Labour) processes the application and provides access to the electronic record to Indian government- accredited recruitment agencies in India that are then required to obtain the worker's attested consent. A duly designated Indian government agency also accesses the record for the purpose of reviewing the terms of the employment and granting an emigration clearance accordingly. This is followed by the registration of the electronic contract and the issuance of the work permit by the UAE Ministry of Labour.