

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4182  
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012  
DEATH OF INDIAN WORKMEN ABROAD  
Biju Shri P. K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received individual requests and complaints from widows and families of Indian workmen who died while working abroad;
- (b) if so, the number of such complaints that have been received during the last three years; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) : From time to time requests from the family members of deceased Indian nationals are received regarding sending of their mortal remains to India or seeking assistance to get the compensation due to them. Such requests are also received directly in the Indian Missions abroad.

(b): Information is being collected from the Indian Missions abroad and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c): On receipt of information about the death of an Indian national, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs immediately gets in touch with the Indian Mission, which then gets in touch with the sponsor and sponsoring companies impressing upon them the need to complete formalities immediately and to send death related documents expeditiously for issuing No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the transportation of the mortal remains. The Mission issues an NOC once the complete documents are presented by the sponsor or the attorney authorized by the family of the deceased. After obtaining the NOC, the sponsor or the attorney obtains clearance from the local authorities and completes the formalities for the transportation of the body to India.

In cases, where death compensation is due, the Ministry ensures that the Mission follows up the cases on a priority basis with the foreign employers concerned, local Govt. authorities and even the local courts, whenever necessary. Upon finalization, the amount of the death compensation is immediately forwarded to the State Governments for payment to the family of the deceased after following the prescribed procedure.

Similarly, in cases of death caused by accidents, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs ensures that the Indian Mission informs the next-of-kin of the deceased about the entitlements of death compensation, and also advises/guides them to appoint a lawyer to represent the legal heirs of the deceased to claim the compensation amount. For this purpose, the legal heirs of the deceased either appoint a lawyer on their own or authorize the Mission to appoint a lawyer on their behalf by sending a Power of Attorney in favour of the Mission.