

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1200
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
ILLEGAL EMIGRATION OF PEOPLE
Patel Shri Devji

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a number of people being illegally emigrated to foreign countries in the name of employment are being exploited there;
- (b) if so, the number of cases came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year;and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such illegal practices and also to safeguard the interests of such people?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam. Complaints are received from time to time against unauthorized agents who resort to the illegal emigration of Indian workers.

(b): The number of complaints received against unregistered agents during the last three years are as below:

Year No. of complaints

2009 136

2010 166

2011 225

2012 (till 183
31-7-2012)

(c): Since the agents involved in deploying the persons illegally are not registered with the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, the complaints received are referred to the State police authorities concerned for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983 and other provisions of the law as appropriate.

The Government has been taking steps for preventing illegal migration and to safeguard the interests of such emigrants. These, inter-alia, include the following :

(i) A National Awareness-cum-Publicity campaign is undertaken from time to time to create wider awareness among the general public and particularly among the potential migrants on the risks of illegal migration and safeguards against illegal practices by unauthorized intermediaries and fraudulent recruiting agencies.

(ii) The Government has constituted a high level Core-Group to lead and monitor action for combating and preventing irregular migration. The Core-Group is headed by Secretary, MOIA and has representatives from relevant Central Ministries and State

Governments. The Core-Group has circulated a template amongst State Governments to formulate action plans against irregular migration from their States.

(iii) The Ministry has been holding annual consultation with the major states of origin to ensure better coordination and enforcement.

(iv) An Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been established which runs a 24X7 helpline in 7 languages to provide information and guidance to emigrants.

(v) Migrant Resources Centres have been established in Cochin, Hyderabad and Panchkula (Haryana) for information, dissemination and counselling of potential migrants.

(vi) Government has established an Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) at UAE.

(vii) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been established in all countries. Help is provided by the Indian Missions out of this fund to all Indian workers who are stranded and in need of assistance.