

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3316

ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012

EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN WORKERS WOMEN ABROAD

Alagiri Shri S. ;Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Mani Shri Jose K.;Pakkirappa Shri S.;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether there has been continuous rise in the number of cases of exploitation/misbehaviour and harassment of Indian workers/women in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases that have come to the notice of/taken note of by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate an action plan for preventing such incidents through diplomatic discussions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of assistance provided by the Indian Missions abroad to the victims of exploitation;
- (f) whether instances of the Indian labourers being arrested in foreign countries have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year;
- (g) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and year-wise; and
- (h) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure security of Indians in foreign countries?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The number of complaints received during the last three years and the current year is given in the ANNEXURE. There does not appear to be a continuous rise in the number of cases of exploitation/misbehaviour and harassment of Indian workers.

(c) & (d): As and when complaints regarding exploitation, ill-treatment, non-payment of salaries/dues, etc. are received, these are taken up with the Indian Mission concerned and the Mission takes up the matter with the foreign employer or the authorities concerned for redressal of the grievances. The Government has taken several initiatives to protect the welfare of overseas Indian workers.

India had signed Labour Agreement with Jordan and Qatar, and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia and Bahrain. These MOUs enhance bilateral co-operation in management of migration and protection of labour welfare. Under these MOUs Joint Working Groups (JWG) have been constituted that meet regularly in order to resolve bilateral labour issues.

Besides, the Ministry has set up the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in all the Indian Missions for providing onsite support and financial assistance to Indian workers in distress.

Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) is also functioning at Dubai for taking care of emergency needs of Indian workers.

(e) All possible assistance is provided to Indian workers in distress whether it is consular or financial such as transportation of mortal remains, air tickets to the destitute, travel incidentals, food, legal assistance, ex-gratia payment, etc.

(f) & (g): On receipt of information by the Indian Mission from local Ministry about the Indian nationals detained for various offences, including violation of labour laws in which illegal residents and visa violators are arrested and detained, emergency certificates are issued on a gratis basis to jail inmates, so that those who have no travel documents can travel to India as soon as they finish their jail term.

(h) As and when such complaints are received, these are taken up with the Indian Mission concerned and the Mission takes up the matter with the foreign employer or the authorities concerned for redressal of the grievances. The issues are also addressed in the Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings with the respective countries for setting up mechanism to redress such issues.