

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4439  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012  
INDIANS DISPLACED IN BHUTAN  
Adityanath Shri Yogi

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that thousands of people of Indian origin have been displaced in Bhutan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for the safety of the people of Indian origin in Bhutan?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) There are no inputs to suggest that Indians are being displaced in Bhutan. However, instances have come to notice where foreigners have been asked to leave the country, if their stay is not in accordance with the Labour and Employment Act 2007 of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB). This law does not allow illegal immigrants to work or reside in the country. As per the law, if an employer employs a worker illegally, a monetary penalty of Nu.10,000 per day is imposed on him;
- (b) As per an RGoB input, during a regular inspection by the immigration officials in September 2011 in Gelephu, 31 illegal Indian immigrants were detected. These illegal immigrants were issued with repatriation orders;
- (c) The Indian Mission has strongly intervened with the Royal Government of Bhutan through several notes verbale, aides-memoire and personal interactions with senior functionaries. The Royal Government of Bhutan has informed that the Government has no intention to cause inconvenience to Indian Nationals working with proper permits and operating their own business with valid trade licence. The only concern is with those expatriates working without valid work permits and operating business illegally.