

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1985

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012

LABOURERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Indian labourers are ill-treated in foreign countries, particularly the Gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last three years;
- (c) whether it is also true that many labourers have died in such incidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of our citizens in other countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) and (b): The cases of employer-employee disputes are received from time to time with complaints of non-payment/delayed payment or underpayment of salaries, non-renewal of visa and labour card on time, unsatisfactory living conditions including sub-standard food at the camp site, refusal to pay for the medical treatment of the worker, denial of leave and air ticket to the hometown on completion of 2 years period of contract, physical assault/sexual harassment, etc.

Information in this regard has been received from Embassy of India, Riyadh, Kuwait, Muscat (Oman) and Consulate General of India, Jeddah for the last three years as follows:

Country	2010	2011	2012
EOI, Riyadh	3,139	2,330	2,359
CGI, Jeddah	2,111	1,326	1,243
Kuwait	4,373	2,854	2,978
Oman	2,262	2,789	2,183

(c) and (d): No incident of death of any Indian labourer due to dispute with his sponsor has been reported. However, an incident in Kuwait has come to the notice where four Indian domestic workers were shot dead on 01-08-2011 by a Kuwaiti national as the accused was reportedly suffering from mental disorder.

(e): The Government has taken several steps to address the issue of Indian emigrants, which include: -

(i) The Ministry has notified the Emigration (Amendment) Rules 2009 on 9th July, 2009 revising the eligibility criteria of Recruiting Agents (RAs), enhancing their recruiting capacity and increasing the security amount and service charges.

(ii) National Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaigns are carried out regularly 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.

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

(iv) An Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC), with a 24X7 helpline supported by eight regional languages assists emigrants/emigrants intending to go abroad for employment to 17 notified Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) countries.

(v) India has signed over the recent years Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with United Arab Emirates, (UAE), Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia and Bahrain. Additional Protocol to an existing agreement with Qatar has also been signed.

These MOUs enhance bilateral co-operation in management of migration and protection of labour welfare. Under these MOUs a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted that meets regularly in order to resolve bilateral labour issues.