

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:235  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013  
EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN WOMEN ABROAD  
Pandey Saroj;Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) the number of cases of exploitation/ harassment of Indian women working abroad reported during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) the assistance being offered to women in distress overseas;
- (c) the current status of the proposal to set up shelter homes for Indian women workers in distress, country-wise; and
- (d) the number of women who have been benefited by such assistance/shelter homes till date?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 235 for 13-03-2013 regarding Exploitation of Indian Women Abroad.

(a): Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs maintains records of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders going to ECR countries for employment. Information regarding exploitation / harassment of Indian women working in these 17 ECR countries is given in Annexure-I.

(b): The following assistance is provided:

(i) The Missions on receiving complaints first take up the matter with the company/sponsor to get it resolved amicably. If required, the matter is taken up with the concerned local authorities. Where necessary, legal assistance and counseling is also provided.

(ii) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been established in all the Indian Missions for on-site welfare of emigrants in distress. The assistance provided includes short-term boarding and lodging; medical care; providing air passage to stranded Overseas Indians where essential; providing initial legal assistance in deserving cases; airlifting the mortal remains to India or the cremation/burial of the deceased Overseas Indians locally, in cases where the sponsor is unable or unwilling to meet the cost, and the family is unable to do so either; payment of penalties in respect of Indian nationals for illegal stay in the host country where prima facie the worker is not at fault; and providing the payment of small fines/penalties for the release of Indian nationals in jail/detention centre.

Around 28,000 emigrants have been benefitted from the scheme during the last three years, and Rs.37 crore have been utilized for the purpose.

(iii) Operating shelters for distressed emigrants by Missions.

(iv) An Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) has been established at Dubai, UAE as a one stop service outlet for addressing the information and assistance needs of emigrants.

(c) & (d): Out of the 17 ECR countries, position relating to shelter homes and number of women benefitted in respect of major Gulf countries and Malaysia is given in Annexure-II.