

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2130  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009  
EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN WORKERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
Swaraj Smt. Sushma

**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 and harassment of Indian workers in foreign countries, particularly in the gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the year-wise and country-wise details thereof for the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring changes in Immigration Act to check these incidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of assistance provided by the Government to the victims of exploitation?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): Indian missions abroad are approached by Indian workers in the Gulf and other countries on account of non-payment, arbitrary reduction or delay in payment of wages, longer working hours and lack of proper accommodation, food and medical facilities, etc. The details are given in the Annexure.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The Ministry has already initiated action to revamp the emigration system through a new legislation proposed.
- (e): Indian Missions extend help as and when overseas Indians require assistance. In addition, in 17 ECR countries 'Indian Community Welfare Fund' has been established to extend on-site welfare services to all overseas Indians in distress.