

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6732  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013  
INDIAN WORKERS DETAINED IN KUWAIT  
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether around 2000 Indian workers have been detained in Kuwait recently for visa norm violations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Embassy in Kuwait has established contacts with the detained Indian workers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the said incident in Kuwait once again exposes the flaws of the sponsorship system; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) & (b): Yes, madam. As per information given by the Kuwaiti authorities, around 2,000 Indians were arrested on September 19, 2012 for alleged visa violation. After verification/ checking of records, around 1750 were released, and the rest were deported.
- (c): Yes, madam. Officers of the Embassy were in regular contact with the local authorities as well as the detained workers for securing their release or facilitating their return to India.
- (d) & (e): As the `Kafala` (Sponsorship) system is an existing system in an independent, sovereign country, Kuwait. It is for the potential emigrants to consider whether they would like to migrate under such conditions or not.