

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:956
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
MIGRATION OF INDIAN LABOURERS
Natarajan Shri P.R.;Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether the Indian workers are being sent abroad by Government approved overseas Manpower Agencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of labourers in foreign jails alongwith the details of those died in harness;and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for general amnesty to the illegally detained prisoners abroad ?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the current calendar year 5.18 lakh emigrants have been cleared for overseas employment to ECR countries till 31.10.2009.

(c)&(d): Indian Missions in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Jordan, Thailand, USA, London, Australia, Cambodia, Ireland, Senegal, Colombia, Yemen, Suva and Germany have informed that no Indian workers are in jails there.

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has informed that as on 29.10.2009, there are 175 Indian prisoners in the Central jail of Kuwait. In addition, there are 61 Indian prisoners in the Public Jail of Kuwait convicted for petty offences and serving short jail terms. The Embassy has also informed three cases of deaths of Indian nationals in Kuwaiti jails. Whereas, Embassy of India in Lebanon has reported one such case, Indian Embassy in Oman has informed that exact statistics on the number of Indian workers in Omani jails is not available. However, one Indian worker died in harness in jail in Oman in the year 2007 & 2008 each. In the year 2009 no such case has been reported till date. Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia has reported 13 cases of death of Indian Nationals during the year 2009.

Indian missions abroad make all possible efforts to get Indian nationals released quickly by providing necessary assistance including consular access to the detainees. They try to ensure fair and humane treatment in jails.