

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:971
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
FRAUDULENT AGENCIES
Sinha Shri Yashwant;Venugopal Shri K. C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding fraudulent activities of agencies providing jobs overseas or getting them admissions in foreign universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints received during the last three years and the current year, year-wise ;
- (c) the number of Indians opting to go abroad for jobs or higher education during the said period, year-wise ;
- (d) whether any new guidelines have been issued to check the activities of such fraudulent agencies in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the remedial measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Complaints against unauthorized agencies involved in overseas recruitment business and registered recruiting agents are received from time to time. However, students are not covered by the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Position relating to complaints received against registered recruiting agencies as well as unauthorized agencies and action taken against them is given in Annexure-I.

(c): Emigration clearance granted for employment during the last three years:

Year	No. of workers (in lakhs)
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2006	6.77
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2007	8.09
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2008	8.49
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2009	5.18
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(upto 31st

October, 2009)

No data is available in respect of persons going abroad for jobs without emigration clearance, or for higher education.

(d) & (e): The Emigration Rules, 1983 have been amended vide notification dated 9th July,2009. The highlights of the amendments are at Annexure-II.

(f): Following remedial measures have been/are being taken in regard to workers:

(i) All demands for 500 or more workers are verified for the genuineness of the demand as well as the foreign employer.

(ii) Labour Agreements/MoUs have been signed with Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait,Oman, Bahrain and Malaysia for bilateral cooperation for protection and welfare of emigrants.

(iii) Special measures being taken for better protection and welfare of vulnerable sections of emigrants including women emigrants are:

(a): Age restriction of 30 years for all women emigrating on ECR of overseas passports.

(b): A 24X7 helpline viz. Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been set up to enable emigrants/prospective emigrants to seek information and file complaints against recruiting agents/foreign employers. A Migrant Resource Centre has been opened at Kochi for similar assistance.

(iv) A vigorous campaign in the print and electronic media is regularly undertaken to create awareness about hazards of illegal migration.