

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2077

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN LABOURERS ABROAD

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

- (a) whether thousands of labourers from India go to various countries for employment and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding exploitation of the labourers abroad; and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to check such exploitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): Indian workers emigrate for seeking employment in all categories of work ranging from low skilled to high skilled professional jobs. Emigration clearance is granted by the office of Protector of Emigrants to Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders going for employment to any of the 17 notified Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Details of the emigration clearance granted during the last three years is at Annexure-I.

(b): Complaints from Indian workers are received generally pertaining to non-payment/ delayed payment or underpayment of salaries, long working hours, inadequate living conditions, physical harassment, non-renewal of visa and labour card on time, refusal to pay for the medical treatment, denial of leave and air-ticket to the hometown on completion of contract period, refusal of leave or 'exit/re-entry permits/'final exit visa' etc.

(c): The Government has taken several initiatives to protect the welfare of overseas Indian workers. A list of such initiatives is placed at Annexure-II.