

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2312  
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014  
EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN WOMEN ABROAD  
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) the number of cases of exploitation/ harassment of Indian women working abroad during the last year and the current year, till date;
- (b) the assistance being offered to women in distress overseas; and
- (c) the number of women who have been benefited by such assistance?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs maintains records of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders going to ECR countries for employment. Total number of cases of exploitation/harassment of Indian women working in 17 ECR countries reported during 2013 is 809 and during 2014 (till date) is 224.

(b): For on-site welfare of emigrants in distress, Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been established in all the Indian Missions. The assistance provided includes short-term boarding and lodging, medical care, providing air passage where essential, providing initial legal assistance in deserving cases, payment of penalties in respect of Indian Nationals for illegal stay in the host country where prima facie the worker is not at fault, and providing the payment of small fines/penalties for the release of Indian Nationals in jail/detention centre. An Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) has been established at Dubai, UAE as a one stop service outlet for addressing the information and assistance needs of emigrants. Other Missions also have helpline/helpdesks to attend to grievances of the Indian Nationals.

(c): Total number of women benefitted in the year 2013 and 2014 (till date) is 917.