

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:669
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
OPENING OF HELP DESKS ABROAD
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to strengthen the Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad for rendering assistance to Indian workers abroad and those who are desirous of going abroad for employment;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to open Help Desks in foreign countries in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Government has already strengthened the Indian Embassies in USA and UAE by posting Counsellors (Community Affairs) to render assistance to Indian workers abroad. They will be assisted by local Indian professionals in extending legal, medical and financial counselling to workers in need.

The Government has also established the Overseas Workers Resource Centre in New Delhi and the Migrant Resource Centre in Cochin. These centres assist those desirous of going abroad for employment through information dissemination and counselling services. The centres also operate toll free help lines for redressal of the grievances of Overseas Indian Workers.