

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:29

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015

Rehabilitation of Pravasis

Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.

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

- (a) the details of "Pravasis" who have returned from various countries during the last three years on account of internal strife or unfavourable labour conditions and other reasons, country and year-wise, including Gulf countries;
- (b) the details of the Indian labourers arrested, harassed or put to inconvenience on account of implementation of the Nitaqat labour law in Saudi Arabia; and
- (c) the number of "pravasis" returned from Gulf countries, State-wise and the assistance given to them by the Government?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

SMT.SUSHMA SWARAJ

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. \*29 (Position No. 9) regarding "Rehabilitation of Pravasis"

(a): The details of pravasis who have returned from various countries on account of internal strife or unfavourable labour conditions or other reasons during the last three years, as reported by the Indian Missions and Posts abroad are at Annexure I.

(b): On 6th April, 2013 the Saudi Government announced a 3-month grace period for those affected by the Nitaqat programme to correct their residential status in Saudi Arabia, which was subsequently extended till 03 November 2013. More than 1.4 million Indians availed of the concessions. According to figures released by Saudi authorities, over 1,40,000 Indian workers did not avail of the concessions and they left for India, during 6th April 2013 to 27th November 2013 without facing any penal action or ban on their return. There have been no reports of large scale arrest of Indian workers after the grace period, although there may be a few cases of Indians from the very large Indian community (over 2.75 million), who have been deported from Saudi Arabia. No official figures in this regard are available.

(c): As per information received from Indian Missions, the number of Indians evacuated in the recent past includes Yemen -4882, Iraq- 7152 and Libya- 3617 (2014,2015). Assistance for evacuation was also provided from Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs' Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). State-wise list of returnees is not maintained.