

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1429

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015

Wages of Housemaid

K. Shri Parasuraman

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to regulate wages for Indian housemaids getting employment in gulf countries especially those who get employment through private agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the monitoring mechanism constituted by the Government to ensure proper wages along with working environment in those countries to the migrated Indian housemaids especially in gulf countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ

(a) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stipulated Minimum Referral Wages for different categories of workers, including housemaids, based on the inputs received from Indian Missions. For grant of emigration clearance to workers going abroad for employment, contracts between foreign employers and Indian workers have to specify wages equal to or above the Minimum Referral Wages.

(b) & (c) All contracts for housemaids have to be attested by the Indian Mission and a security deposit of US\$ 2500 or equivalent has to be deposited by the foreign employer with Indian Mission before grant of emigration clearance is considered. In case of default of contract, the deposit can be used for payment of arrears in wages and meeting cost of repatriation of the workers.

The Government has signed MoUs on labour with major labour receiving countries, namely Jordan, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Malaysia. An agreement on labour cooperation for Domestic Sector Workers (DSWs) was also signed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2014. Under these MOU's/Agreement, Joint Working Groups are constituted to find solutions to bilateral labour problems.