

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5843
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2015
SCHEME TO ASSIST WIDOWS OF DECEASED WORKERS
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Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme to assist widows/ dependent family members of Indians who died while working abroad has been formulated or under consideration of the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received representations for according compensation to the next of kin of Indians who died while working abroad;
- (c) if so, the details of cases where compensation/assistance was sought during each of the last three years and the current year, State and country-wise and the action taken in each case;
- (d) whether the Indian Missions abroad have put in place any mechanism to expedite settlement of legal dues/compensations from the local authorities in case of death of Indian workers abroad; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS GENERAL V.K. SINGH (RETD.)

(a) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has made an Insurance Scheme Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojna (PBBY) compulsory for Emigration Check Required (ECR) workers going to ECR countries for employment. Under this scheme the emigrant worker gets a minimum insurance cover of Rs. 10.00 lakh.

(b) & (c) The Government regulates Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders going to an ECR country (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sudan (South), Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) for employment. The cases reported by the Indian Missions in these countries in respect of matter relating to death compensation are given in the annexure. State-wise details are not maintained by the Indian Missions. The action taken in these cases is detailed in parts (d) & (e).

(d) & (e): There is a mechanism in Indian Missions for following up on all cases relating to legal dues and death compensation claims. The Missions provide assistance, on a pro-active basis, right from informing the next of kin to facilitating the disposal of mortal remains either by local burial or transportation to India, in coordination with the sponsors. On receipt of the requisite documents duly attested by concerned authorities in India, the Indian Missions file the cases for death compensation through their panel of lawyers on behalf of the legal heirs. The Missions keep the family of the deceased informed about the progress of the case from time to time. On receipt of compensation in local currency, the Missions forward a demand draft in Indian Rupees (equivalent to the amount received as compensation) issued in favour of the concerned District Collector, for disbursement under intimation to the legal heirs of the deceased.

In the event of onsite and road traffic accidents, the Missions pursue cases on behalf of the families on receipt of a Power of Attorney and Legal Heirship Certificate from them. In the event of refusal by Insurance Companies to honour the judgement of the Court, civil cases are filed for execution of the same.

In the event of any delay, the Missions intervene with the company concerned, and if necessary, with the local Government agency concerned, to facilitate settlement of the outstanding dues.