

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2519
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016
Repatriation of NRIs from Gulf Countries
Ninama Shri Manshankar;Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) returning to India from the Gulf countries has increased to a great extent during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indians living and working in the Gulf countries are facing several new problems/issues;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to address these problems; and
- (e) the various steps taken by the Government for helping the NRIs returning to India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) The ongoing economic downturn in the Gulf countries due to fall in crude oil prices has affected expatriate workers. There are some reports of Indian workers being asked to leave before completion of their existing contracts. Instances of unpaid salaries for last few months have also been reported. The Government is monitoring the situation and is working in close coordination with the governments in Gulf States towards extending all possible assistance to Indian nationals abroad. Presently, a section of Indian workers facing difficulties in two major Saudi companies namely, Saudi Oger and the Saad Group are returning back to India. The Saudi authorities are extending necessary support to the affected Indian workers of these companies including in waiver of fines on iqama (resident permit) related violations, providing exit visas and one way return tickets to India as well as transfer of sponsorship, wherever possible, on gratis basis.

(e) The responsibility of resettlement of returnees primarily rests with the State governments. It is important that the returning NRIs are informed on arrival about the resettlement programmes and financial support schemes of the Central and State government. The government stands ready to extend necessary cooperation to State governments in this regard.