

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2111
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
RESTRICTION ON MIGRATION
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Noor Smt. Mausam

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that lakhs of Indians are working in civil war affected countries like Iraq Syria. Nigeria, etc and if so the details of Indians working in these countries, country-wise.
- (b) whether the Government has enforced visa restrictions to visit and work in such countries, and if so, the directives/ guidelines issued in this regard
- (c) whether the Government is aware that even though the restrictions are in force. large number of Indians are seeking employment in civil war affected countries.
- (d) if so, the policies laid down by the Government to enforce strict vigil to check migration to such nations: and
- (e) the punitive action taken/proposed to be taken to identify and revoke the licences of unscrupulous recruitment agents/agencies who offer job in such countries`

Answer

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

- (a): Country-wise data of the Indians working in civil war affected countries are not maintained by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. A statement showing number of Indian workers migrated to the Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries is annexed.
- (b): The Government has suspended emigration clearance of Indian workers for Emigration Check Required (ECR) category in respect of ECR countries Libya and Iraq considering present disturbances in those countries. However, such suspension of emigration clearance is not applicable to Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) category of passport holders. The suspension on emigration clearance for Libya had been extended up to June, 2014 and is now proposed to be extended upto September, 2014. For Iraq, suspension of emigration clearance of ECR category of workers has been extended until further orders.
- (c) to (e): Bureau of Immigration has been informed about suspension of emigration clearances Iraq and Libya and to enforce it. The Protector of Emigrants has also been suitably instructed. No complaint of emigration clearance after the suspension of emigration clearance, has been brought to the notice.

If any complaint against unregistered illegal Agent deploying workers overseas including to the civil war effected countries are received, the matter is referred to the concerned State Governments / Police Authorities for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 and 24 of Emigrants Act 1983, and other laws of the land as considered appropriate.

In case of complaints against registered Recruiting Agents, action as stipulated under the Emigration Act 1983 and Emigration Rules 1983 is taken by way of issuing Show Cause Notice (SCN), suspension/ cancellation of license and forfeiture of Bank Guarantee for violation of any provisions of the Emigration Act 1983, as the case may be.