

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.521**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2022

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

521. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an association of 38 member countries;
- (b) if so, whether as per OECD International Migration Outlook (2021) Annual Report COVID-19 crisis caused the sharpest drop of over 30 percent in permanent migration number, lowest since 2003;
- (c) if so, to what extent Indian migration workers to OECD nation dropped during 2020 and 2021 so far;
- (d) whether due to decrease in COVID cases and lifting of restrictions by many countries the flow of migrant workers to OECD countries from India has shown any increase; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by Government to help these migrant workers?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH]

(a) Yes.

(b) As per the OECD publication "International Migration Outlook 2021", published on 28 October 2021, due to Covid-19 pandemic, "permanent migration flows to OECD countries declined by more than 30% in 2020, to about 3.7 million - the lowest level since 2003".

(c) to (e) OECD has not published figures for migration of Indian workers to OECD countries for years 2020/2021.

It was the Government's priority to ensure during the pandemic that its impact on Indian professionals and workers abroad in terms of loss of employment was mitigated. To that end, the Ministry and all our Missions were continuously engaged with host Governments to support and ensure welfare of our nationals abroad. Many countries have responded favourably to our efforts and established air bubbles and eased visa, travel and health restrictions. Return of Indian professionals and workers, as well as new recruitment, is proceeding apace in line with economic

recovery in various OECD countries. Government will continue to make this its priority.

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