

(a) whether it is a fact that separate television channel for almost every field have already been launched;

(b) whether Government has plans to launch a healthcare channel for creating awareness among the public especially for the people of rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. An exclusive health channel is not presently under consideration of Doordarshan. However, Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendras are extensively producing programmes on a large number of issues including health issues for urban as well as rural audiences. These programmes also cover subjects like Yoga, Meditation and Health Tips through spots, interviews, discussions, features on diseases like diabetes, heart problems, eye problems and other physical fitness issues.

Doordarshan Kendras are mounting special programme campaigns on National Health Programmes and issues like Polio, Malaria, Goiter, Cataract, TB etc. and also telecasting programmes on National Rural Health Mission, Total Sanitation, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Mission and Integrated Child Development Services every week. Doordarshan Kendras are also producing and telecasting programmes on Children's Health issues, mother and child care in coordination with UNICEF and NGOs.

Cases of luring unemployed persons

†1106. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agents lure the unemployed persons in the country by promising them good job and high salary in foreign countries and abandon them after reaching the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the total number of cases which have come to the notice of Government so far;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to make or bring any rule or law to control such cheats; and

(e) if so, the time by which such rule or law would be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Complaints are received from time to time regarding non deployment on promised jobs, non-payment or reduced/delayed payment of salaries, adverse working conditions, denial of appropriate medical facilities, abandoning the emigrants after reaching the foreign countries and poor living conditions, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) During the last three years, the number of complaints received are as under:—

Complaints against unregistered recruiting agents

Year	No. of complaints	Prosecution Sanctions issued	Cases referred to State Governments/POEs for action
2006	78	21	57
2007	41	7	34
2008	93	58	35

Complaints against unregistered recruiting agents

Year	No. of complaints	Show cause notices issued	No. of Registration Certificates suspended/ cancelled	No. of complaints dropped/ resolved	Cases pending and being followed up
2006	167	167	80	87	Nil
2007	98	94	12	51	35
2008	118	118	19	45	54

Besides the above, 340 foreign employers have been placed under prior approval category based on such complaints.

(d) and (e) To strengthen the regulatory system and protect the rights and welfare of the Indian emigrants, comprehensive amendment of the Emigration Act, 1983 is underway.

Protection of Overseas Indians

1107. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of doctors, technocrats and migrant labour working in overseas countries; and

(b) whether the Indian Overseas Ministry has formulated National Policy or entered into any bipartite agreement with any country for the proper protection of Indians in Overseas?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) During 2006 and 2007, 6.76 lakhs and 8.09 lakhs Indian workers were granted emigration clearance