

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the Emigration (Amendment) Rules, 2009 *w.e.f* July, 2009 which provide for :

- (i) Increase in the amount of security to be deposited by the recruiting agent from Rs. 3-10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.
- (ii) Increase in application fee for registration certificate from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 25,000/- .
- (iii) The application for registration now will have to be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's bachelor's degree or two years diploma or equivalent, balance sheet of the previous financial year or a statement of accounts showing the assets and liabilities of the applicant, income tax returns for the last three consecutive years and an affidavit executed by the applicant before a Magistrate or Notary Public.
- (iv) A recruiting agent can now collect services charges from the worker equivalent to his wages for 45 days as under the employment contract, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/- . However, he must issue a receipt to the worker for the amount collected.
- (v) The recruiting agents have been entrusted with specific duties and responsibilities with a view to safeguard the interest of the emigrant worker. They will also have to maintain certain minimum basic facilities. They will be required to issue only such advertisements that are genuine and factually correct and shall refrain from any inducement or misrepresentation in this regard. They shall also file copies of all advertisements to the Protector General of Emigrants immediately after their publication or release.

(c) and (d) The Government proposes to enact a new Emigration Law. The proposed legislation is aimed at transforming emigration into a simple, transparent, efficient and humane economic process, facilitate legal migration, prevent illegal migration and human smuggling, enable ethical recruitment practices, enhance protection and welfare of emigrants, and manage student mobility and matters connected therewith. The draft Bill is being finalised through inter-ministerial consultations for obtaining cabinet approval.

The Government is also implementing an e-governance project which will keep track of the recruitment for overseas employment on real-time basis and prevent/detect any malpractices by unscrupulous recruiting agents.

Ministry has also assigned a task to Public Affairs Foundation, Bangalore, for preparation of report card on Recruiting Agents, develop a rating system for the recruiting agents and prepare the blueprint for setting of an apex body for the recruiting agents in the country.

University for PIOs

3567. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up a University for PIOs;
- (b) the rationale for such an institution when the scholarships programmes and reserved seats in higher education institutions are already available to the diaspora children;
- (c) whether Government is considering expanding the existing schemes; and
- (d) if so, whether Government has taken a final decision on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The task of setting up the first PIO/NRI university at Bangaluru has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).

Expressions of Interest for setting up four more universities at places other than Bangaluru have been invited.

(b) Though provision for supernumerary seats in higher educational institutions except those imparting medical education, have been by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), these are for all foreigners including PIOs. Higher educational institutions of excellence, e.g. IITs, IIMs, which are the institutions sought after by PIOs, do not have capacity to enroll PIO students.

The proposed NRI/PIO University would be at par with the best universities in the world in terms of the standard of education and would cater to the needs of the diaspora children.

There is no scholarship scheme available exclusively for the PIO students.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Bipartite Agreement with UAE

3568. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY :
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of bipartite agreement signed between India and UAE on protection of Indian Emigrants working in UAE?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of manpower was signed between the Government of India and UAE on 13th December, 2006. The bipartite MoU provides for the following :-

- (i) Declaration of mutual intent to enhance employment opportunities and for bilateral cooperation in protection and welfare of workers.
- (ii) The host Country to take measures for protection and welfare of the workers in organized sector.