

Further information received from Indian Missions in Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Brunei, Libya, Jordan, and Lebanon, indicate that there is no report of Indians affected by global recession there. Indian Mission in Yemen has informed that there is negligible impact on Indian workers due to global recession. Indian Mission in Indonesia has stated that there is no large scale impact of recession in Indonesia. Indian Mission in Malaysia has informed that small number of Indian workers have returned to India due to slowdown of the Malaysian economy in the context of current global recession.

So far as professionals are concerned, they mostly emigrate to the Western World. As per report received from Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia, there is no report of such return of Indians because of recession and economic slowdown.

Report received from United States of America (USA) indicates that the recession in USA has affected almost all sections of the people. The unemployment rate in USA has gone up to 9.6% in the month of May, 2009 which saw a loss of 4,65,000 jobs. However they have informed that Indians working in the United States are mostly professionals and the extent of job losses by Indians is, therefore, slightly mitigated by their indispensability to the organization. The exact number of Indian affected by the recession is indeterminate.

At present, no welfare measures for returned overseas workers are existing.

Job-rackets in the country

1417. SHRI P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of Job-rackets in the country who offer lucrative job to jobseekers and finally cheat them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of actions being taken against them;
- (d) the details and number of such victims who are languishing in jails abroad; and
- (e) Government's action plan to help such victims?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints regarding fraudulent offers of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers have been received by the Ministry from time to time. Such complaints include fraudulent advertisements announcing job vacancies overseas, recruitment on behalf of dubious employers and offers of exaggerated benefits to lure job seekers. These complaints have been received against Registered Recruiting Agents, unauthorized intermediaries as well as some foreign employers.

Complaints against foreign employers regarding violation of terms and conditions of the work contract are also received from time to time.

(c) In the case of Registered Recruiting Agents (RA), on receipt of a complaint, a show cause notice is issued and comments of concerned office of Protector of Emigrants is called for. If the RA fails to redress the grievances of overseas Indian workers, action is taken to suspend/cancel his registration and forfeit his Bank Guarantee. During 2008, action on 118 cases against Registered Recruiting Agents have been initiated for offences committed under Emigration Act.

Complaints against Unregistered/Unauthorised Agents are referred to the concerned State Police authorities for investigation and action under the law. Concerned Protector of Emigrants (POEs) also is instructed to initiate due action. During 2008, action on 93 cases against Unregistered/Unauthorised Agents have been initiated for offences committed under Emigration Act.

The Foreign Employers (FEs) who are found to be harassing the Indian Workers are placed in the Prior Approval Category. As on today, 355 FEs are placed under Prior Approval Category List.

(d) and (e) Indian Missions in Bahrain, Japan, United Kingdom, Thailand, USA, Syria, Germany, Kuwait, Netherlands, Afghanistan, Sudan, Canada, South Africa and France have informed that no such victims are languishing in jails.

The Indian Mission in Malaysia has informed that there are around 327 Indian nationals in jails and around 404 in detention camps in Malaysia on various charges including immigration offences. Indian Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE) have indicated that presently there are 1221 Indians in various jails in UAE. This figure keeps changing on a day-to-day basis because of fresh imprisonment or deportation of those who have completed their jail term. However, they have intimated that it is not possible to know from the reports furnished by the UAE jails authority about the number of such victims languishing in jail in UAE. As informed by Indian Mission on Lebanon, seventeen Indians are languishing in jails. Indian Mission in Moscow has reported that there are two Indian nationals victims who are languishing in jails in Russia. Indian Mission in Saudi Arabia has informed that the number of Indian nationals imprisoned during 2008 was 1369 but they have no information of any victim of job-racket languishing in jail. Indian Mission in Indonesia have informed that Mission made arrangements for deportation of 14 such victims during the last one year and efforts are being made for deportation of the only victim who is still under detention. Indian missions abroad make all possible efforts to get Indian nationals released quickly by providing necessary assistance including consular access to the detainees. They try to ensure fair and human treatment in jails. Bilateral agreement/Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed with the foreign countries envisage Joint Committee to take care of the protection and welfare of the emigrants.

Quota for scholarship scheme for Diaspora children

1418. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has instituted the Scholarship schemes for children of NRI/PIO;