

Steps against serial attacks

2178. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether with recent attacks on Indian students in Australia and Canada, racism against India is back again;

(b) if so, whether there has been past incidents of similar attacks in US, UK, Canada and other European nations;

(c) if so, whether travel sector is latest to be accused of racial discrimination against India; and

(d) if so, whether Government is seriously considering to take some steps, so that such type of incidents does not occur on large scale in other countries also?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir. While some of the attacks on Indian nationals, including students, in Australia could have racial connotations, there are not been any racial attack on Indian nationals in Canada recently.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Steps to check fraud in overseas recruitment

2179. SHRI N. K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

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

(a) whether in view of recent uptrend in fraud in overseas recruitment, Government proposes to check out the credibility of the recruiting agencies and veracity of the job offers with Government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several job frauds by overseas agencies have come to the notice of Government in the past few years;

(d) if so, the numbers in the last five years, year-wise; and

(e) the facts thereof and steps taken by Government to check such frauds by overseas recruitment agencies?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) While Government has not noticed any recent uptrend in fraud in overseas recruitment, the Government has put in place a mechanism for monitoring and for stringent action against persons indulging in irregular recruitment for overseas employment.

The Government has taken various steps to assess the credibility of Registered Recruiting Agents and verify job offers with the help of Indian Missions. Before granting registration, the verification of the credibility and suitability of the recruiting agent is done through inspection of the actual location of the office, office facilities, staff, functioning etc., through police verification about his/her antecedents and finally through personal interview by the registering authority to assess his/her overall ability to perform business, awareness about emigration related matters and financial position. Government has recently amended the Emigration Rules to strengthen the same. E-Governance is on the anvil, which will keep track of the recruitment for overseas employment on real time basis and detect any malpractice. Under the existing system, any employment contract for women domestic/unskilled workers is attested by the Indian Missions.

Complaints regarding fraudulent offer of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers are 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. These complaints are 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. 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 the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of Registered Recruiting Agents were 41 during 2005, 167 during 2006, 98 during 2007, 118 during 2008 and 81 during 2009 (upto June).

Complaints against Unregistered/Unauthorized 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 the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of Illegal/Unauthorized Recruiting Agencies were 53 during 2005, 78 during 2006, 40 during 2007, 93 during 2008 and 63 during 2009 (upto June). During 2008 and 2009 (upto June), 56 and 09 prosecution sanctions were issued respectively.

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised to instruct all Police Stations to keep a strict vigil on the activities of unscrupulous agents.

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.