

Indian workers in Mississippi

1415. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Indian workers, who were forced to work under inhuman conditions and had revolted against their employer in Mississippi (USA) during March, 2008, were taken back in the employment or they were forced to migrate;

(b) the percentage of Indian workers working abroad, who are denied the basic necessities even after solemn promises having been made at the time of their recruitment in India; and

(c) whether the aggrieved Indian workers get legal help from our embassies abroad or they have to fight their cases of their own?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

Job losses abroad due to recession

1416. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian people who were working overseas and have lost their jobs due to world recession;

(b) the amount of loss due to their repatriation to our country;

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the workers who have come back from overseas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has any scheme under consideration to give proper welfare measures to the returned overseas workers, who have contributed to the nation for a long period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (f) Indian Missions in the Gulf Countries in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar have informed that there has been no report of any large scale adverse impact on Indian workers because of global economic slowdown and recession, though there has been report of some job losses. The Indian Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reported that accurate figures of return of Indian workers are not available. It is estimated that ranging from 50,000 to 1,50,000 workers have returned to India as a result of the delay in execution of projects due to economic slow down and recession. They have further informed that most of the workers have returned to India as leave without pay with the expectation that they would be able to return to work in the UAE once the situation improves. It would be relevant here to mention that more than ninety percent of Indian Emigration is to the Gulf Countries.

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.