

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, one minute please...(Interruptions) None of this is going on record....(Interruptions)

सरदार तरलोचन सिंह :*

श्री सभापति : एक मिनट...(व्यवधान)... मेरी बात सुन लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया :*

श्री सभापति : प्लीज आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... अहलुवालिया जी, आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... देखिए ...(व्यवधान)... Please ...(Interruptions)... This was discussed this morning.. It was decided that this matter would be taken up after the Question Hour(Interruptions)... Please observe the agreement reached. ...(Interruptions)...Please ...(Interruptions)... We decided on a course of action this morning ...(Interruptions)... Please observe it.(Interruptions)...We decided on a course of action this morning ...(Interruptions)... Please resume your places...(Interruptions)... Allow the Question Hour to proceed...(Interruptions) We decided on a course of action ...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 12 o' clock.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes past eleven
of the clock till twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Directions to States on job racket cases

*461.DR. JANARADHAN WAGHMARE :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

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

(a) whether his Ministry has recently directed the State Governments to take urgent action on foreign job racket cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign job rackets have increased in the country in the past few years and the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Union Government proposes to take to check the functioning of unrecognized job consultancies?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) The migration of Indians for overseas employment is governed by the Emigration Act, 1983. The applicability of the Act is, however, limited to the low skilled migrant workers who hold ECR Passports and emigrate to the Gulf countries and South East Asia. Other professional and skilled

* Not recorded.

workers such as Doctors, Engineers and IT Professionals are not covered under the ambit of the Emigration Act. A significant number of workers migrate every year for overseas employment. In 2008, 8.49 lakh ECR Passport holders went abroad for employment purpose after obtaining emigration clearance.

2. Despite the existing framework to enable legal migration and the efforts made by the Government to prevent illegal migration, complaints regarding fraudulent offers of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers are received by the Ministry from time to time. Such complaints include fraudulent advertisement for jobs abroad, recruitment on behalf of dubious employers and offers of exaggerated benefits to lure job seekers. These complaints are received against registered Recruiting Agents, unauthorized intermediaries as well as some Foreign Employers.

3. Powers to initiate penal action against persons committing offences in recruitment of workers is vested with the State Police. The Ministry advises the State Governments to take steps for detection and prosecution of unauthorized recruiting agents involved illegally in sending workers for foreign jobs. The Protector General of Emigrants forwards such complaints to the State Police authorities for initiating criminal action against the culprits.

4. The Ministry had organized the first Annual Consultation Meeting with the State Governments in July, 2008 on various issues relating to migration of workers and overseas Indians. The State Governments were requested to take pro-active action to collect intelligence and exercise due surveillance on recruitment for overseas employment in the States and to take preventive and corrective action against illegal recruitment. As recently as 6th July, 2009, I had written to Chief Ministers of five major labour sending States requesting them to take stringent action against fraudulent Travel Agents who are engaged in sending workers on Visit Visas for overseas employment to the Gulf Countries.

(c) The number of complaints about illegal recruitment for overseas employment and action taken thereon during 2006-2009 is as follows:-

Year	No. of complaints received	Prosecution Sanctions issued
2006	78	21
2007	40	7
2008	93	56
2009	63	09
(Upto 30.6.09)		

(d) The Government has taken several initiatives for preventing and combating illegal recruitment for overseas employment. These initiatives include the following :-

- (i) A National Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign was launched by the Ministry to create wider awareness among the general public and particularly among the potential migrants on the risks of illegal migration and safeguards against illegal practices by unauthorized intermediaries and fraudulent recruiting agencies.
- (ii) An overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been set up to provide information and assistance to intending migrants on all aspects of overseas employment. The OWRC is operating a toll-free 24x7 Helpline in seven languages to provide need based information to

intending migrant workers about the antecedents of recruiting agents and the precautions to be taken while seeking overseas employments.

- (iii) The Ministry has also issued pamphlets and a Hand book on Emigration to sensitize the public about legal emigration process.
- (iv) The Ministry has set up a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) at Kochi to provide information and counseling services to intending emigrants. Another MRC is being set up at Hyderabad.
- (v) The Ministry has signed an MoU with the State Government of Punjab for promoting legal migration from the State and for creating awareness among emigrant workers for overseas employment opportunities. An MRC is being set up at Chandigarh under the broad framework of this MoU.
- (vi) The Ministry is implementing an E-Governance Project with the objective to provide efficient, cost effective and reliable emigration services in a transparent manner.
- (vii) The Ministry has notified the new Emigration (Amendment) Rules 2009 on 9th July, 2009 revising the eligibility criteria of Recruiting Agents (RAs) and enhancing the validity period of the Registration Certificate and increasing the Bank Guarantee and services charges.
- (viii) The Ministry is finalizing a Draft Bill to replace the Emigration Act, 1983 with a view to effect a paradigm shift in the management of the emigration. The proposed Draft Bill will include a separate chapter on people smuggling and provide stringent penal provisions against smuggling and exploitation of migrants.

Business Visas to Chinese Nationals

*462.SHRI R.C. SINGH :

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Business Visas issued to Chinese national to come to India during the last five years year-wise;
- (b) whether Business Visas, permit nationals of other countries to work in India;
- (c) if not, whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that the Business Visa-holders from China are doing semi skilled work in India; and
- (d) if so, the Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, is doing to curb illegal work by Chinese work by Chinese in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) The detail of year-wise Business Visas issued to Chinese nationals in last five years is as follows :