

(c) whether presently they make remittance directly to concerned individuals or via any Government agency; and

(d) the current status and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

The focus of the Ministry is to establish an institutional framework to enable Overseas Indians to engage with India in the economic, social and cultural spheres. Towards this end the Ministry has established:—

- (i) The Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) a not-for-profit-trust, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Center covers two broad areas *viz*: Investment Facilitation and Knowledge Networking.
- (ii) The India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF) a not-for-profit trust to provide a credible window for Overseas Indian Philanthropy in India's Social development.

The Ministry has also launched a new initiative to develop a Diaspora Knowledge Network called — Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK). The Global INK, an electronic platform will connect people of Indian Origin from a variety of disciplines recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the national and sub national levels in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Remittances are in the nature of private transfers and are sent directly to individuals concerned.

(d) The OIFC is fully functional whereas IDF and Global INK are in the nascent stage.

Workers in Malaysia

2938. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of immigrant Indian workers in Malaysia;
- (b) whether they are living in depressed conditions; and
- (c) the remedial measures undertaken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) It is estimated that there are over 1,50,000 documented Indian workers and about 45,000 undocumented workers in Malaysia.

(b) According to the Indian Mission in Malaysia, they receive complaints from workers relating to non-payment, arbitrary reduction or delay in payment of wages, longer working hours and lack of proper accommodation, food and medical facilities, etc. Complaints of contracts entered into at the time of recruitment being replaced by the employers with the terms and

conditions unfavourable to the workers after they reach Malaysia are also received. In all such cases the High Commission takes prompt action and outstanding dues are settled with the intervention of the Malaysian authorities.

(c) India and Malaysia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on employment of workers on 3rd January 2009. The MoU provides an institutional framework for addressing various issues pertaining to the welfare of Indian workers in Malaysia and redressal of their grievances.

The Malaysian Government has also initiated a scheme of Pre-departure Orientation under which all workers going for employment to Malaysia will undergo ten days Induction Course which will provide exposure to the culture of Malaysia, language (English or Malay) and knowledge of labour laws.

A Joint Working Group has been constituted under the bilateral MOU to resolve problems relating to migration of the workers arising from time to time.

Minimum sittings of Parliament

2939. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether there is a constitutional requirement of minimum number of days of sitting for the Parliament and if not what would be required to be done to have such a stipulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): No, Sir, the Constitution would required to be amended to have a minimum number of days of sittings for the Parliament.

Women in Government jobs

†2940. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total number of employees in Central Government only 7.53 per cent are women;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) the percentage of women employees in Central Government at present, group-wise; and

(d) their expected number at the end of eleventh five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) As per the census of Central Government employees conducted by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2004, 9.68 per cent of Central Government employees were women.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.