

Exploitation of PIOs

†2180. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion has been held on the issue to exploitation of persons of Indian origin and protection of their human rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether international treaties are big hurdle in this direction; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to bring these issues under the purview of National Human Rights Commission?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, reports are often received about the exploitation of overseas Indian workers at the hands of unscrupulous employers and intermediaries. To lay down a framework of bilateral cooperation to address this problem, the Government has signed labour MOUs with the major receiving countries like the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Malaysia. These MOUs also provide for a joint working group to resolve bilateral labour issues.

(c) and (d) India is a party to the core international conventions on human rights namely — International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000. These conventions/treaties facilitate the protection of human rights of Indians, that includes PIOs and are in no way an obstacle/impediment.

Workers returning due to work loss

2181. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian workers working abroad are forced to return to India due to loss of work in the respective countries for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of above workers who returned to India from various countries for the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, country-wise, category-wise; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to rehabilitate the above workers and the fund allotted and spend for the same in last five years, year-wise, State-wise, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Ninety percent Indian emigration is to the Gulf Countries. Indian workers return after the period of the

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