

Indian women working abroad

4529. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that many women workers recruited from India to Gulf countries as house maids end up in brothels in those countries;

(b) whether there is any system for registration of women workers recruited to Gulf countries before their departure from the country; and

(c) whether Government would make mandatory registration of all women recruited for employment in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Women workers going to Gulf countries are not separately registered. But all workers, male as well as female, going for employment to the 17 Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries on ECR passports are required to obtain emigration clearance. The Government has, however, taken some special measures for protection of women emigrants. Women with ECR passports are not allowed to emigrate for work before 30 years of age. The foreign employers hiring Indian women workers have to deposit a security of 2500 US dollars with the Indian Missions. The Government has stipulated a minimum wage of 300 US dollars per month in case of housemaid. Shelter for run-away maids are operated by the Indian Missions. The Government has stipulated that the employer would provide a prepaid mobile phone facility to the woman worker as a mandatory contractual obligation.

NRIs facing trial abroad

4530. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRIs facing trial abroad are not offered the basic principles of natural justice nor granted the right to have a lawyer of own choice;

(b) whether Indian citizens abroad are not treated equally with the citizens of the country and are discriminated;

(c) whether his Ministry has come across this kind of grievances;

(d) if so, the steps taken therefor; and

(e) whether it is possible to safeguard the interest and right of NRIs living abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) As per reports available NRIs living abroad enjoy the basic principles of natural justice and have the right to have a lawyer of their own choice. They are treated equally with the citizens of the country of their residence within the prevalent legal system. Interests and rights of NRIs living abroad are