

Agreement for safeguarding human rights of PIOs

† 1582. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS :

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

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

(a) the names of the countries agreements have been signed with on safeguarding the human rights of the people of Indian origin;

(b) if not, in what manner their human rights would be protected and the name of the safeguarding agency; and

(c) the names of the countries that have reported violation of their human rights?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) There is no instrument under international human rights law, specifically addressing the human rights of foreign nationals. However, the human rights instruments such as International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) state that it is the responsibility of the State to protect foreign nationals and their property in its territory. A State may also be responsible under international law if it fails to punish responsible individuals.

Protection of human rights of PIOs

1583. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion has taken place for the protection of the human rights of the people of Indian origin;

(b) whether international treaties are obstacles in this regard;

(c) whether any discussion has been made to bring this matter under the purview of the Human Rights Commission of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) 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 UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Malaysia. These MoUs also provide for a joint working group to resolve bilateral labour issues.

(b) to (d) India is a party to the core international conventions on human rights namely, International Covenant on Economics, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Convention on 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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.