

[27 JULY, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future course of action to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The current confirmed broadcasting requirements are being met by ISRO.

Indian labourers in Gulf countries

339. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

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

(a) whether Government are taking any action to combat the increasing incidents of labour unrest, living condition and ill treatment to the Indian labour in the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details of the action and results thereof; and

(c) the number of Indian workers are at present working in Gulf countries like UAE, Saudia Arabia and Malaysia separately?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) With a view to curb the exploitation of Indian workers going abroad for employment, it has been made mandatory *w.e.f.* 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment documents, *viz.*, demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories of workers, *i.e.*, unskilled labour and housemaids/domestic workers, these employment documents are required to be attested by the concerned Indian Mission (s). In addition, our Missions have, with the help of Community Welfare Associations and other community support groups, been providing legal assistance/ counselling to protect the interests of Indian workers.

(c) A statement indicating the number of Indians working in the Gulf countries is enclosed, (See below). Malaysia has about 1.37 lakh Indian workers.

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Statement

Number of Indian working in the Gulf countries

Sl. No.	Name of the country	No. of Indian workers.
1	U.A.E.	13,00,000
2	Saudi Arabia	12,39,686
3	Kuwait	4,57,025
4	Oman	3,66,000
5	Bahrain	2,43,000
6	Qatar	1,50,000
TOTAL:		37,55,711

Corruption in PoE

340. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale cases of corruption in the Protectorate of Immigrants (PoE) under his Ministry have come to Government's notice after CBI raids of the Protectorate;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the names of the officials involved in corruption and other irregularities, etc., and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There have been CBI raids in some offices of Protectors of Emigrants (PoE). The cases are at various stages of investigation. Various measures to streamline the emigration process to make it simple and transparent, including amendment to the Emigration Act 1983, are underway.