

(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) to (c) No, Sir. The emigration of women as domestic workers to the Gulf countries is well regulated with adequate safeguards for their protection and welfare. However, some instances of exploitation of women have been reported in the past but these are exceptions and not necessarily related to housemaids only.

To ensure the protection and welfare of women, it is mandatory that all work contract of Emigration Check required (ECR) passport holding women workers emigrating to ECR Countries (including Gulf) are attested by the concerned Indian Mission.

Migrant workers in Middle East

1249. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of India Migrant Labourers that are working in Middle East countries;

(b) whether India has signed bilateral agreement with some countries;

(c) whether migrant workers are also included in this bilateral agreement; and

(d) whether there is any provision for getting the social security money refunded to the workman and facility for transfer of dead body of workers, in case of death?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) About 5 million Indians are estimated to be working in the Middle East countries. Exact data is not available.

(b) India has signed Labour MoUs with Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Malaysia and Bahrain.

(c) Yes, Sir. Migrant workers in the Gulf are contractual workers and do not contribute to social security.

(d) Repatriation of mortal remains are done as per the Employment Contract. If the dead bodies are not transported by the Employer, Indian Missions organize transportation of the dead body. The Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna covers this expense.

Prior approval for handing over CBI case

†1250. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Government's point of view with regard to the Supreme Court's order according to which there is no need to take approval of the State Government before handing over the case to CBI;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.