

1	2	3	4	5
178.	Uzbekistan	200	200	0
179.	Vanuatu	50	50	0
180.	Venezuela	200	NA	NA
181.	Vietnam	780	750	30
182.	Yemen	1,11,000	11,000	1,00,000
183.	Zambia	13,000	5,000	8,000
184.	Zimbabwe	10,500	500	10,000

Refunding of Social Security Fund

2029. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that those who are working abroad and contributing to Social Security Fund are not getting back the money refund at the time when they are leaving job, and coming back to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) In countries in the Gulf region no mandatory social security system exists. As such workers don't have to make any such contribution. However, in most of the developed countries like USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Korea and EU Member States, etc. there is a mandatory social security system involving compulsory contributions, entitlement to benefits (pension for old age, disability and survivors) subject to minimum period of contribution (e.g. 10 years in case of USA) and payment of benefits subject to residence in that country. In general, these countries have no provision for refund of contributions at the time of return of the workers. As a result, Indian employees lose their social security contributions and benefits when they come back to India.

To overcome this problem, the Government is pursuing social security agreements to provided for exemption from contributions for detached workers, portability of benefits irrespective of residence and totalization of contribution periods to fulfill the minimum qualification criteria. The

Government has already signed such agreements with Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Hungary, Denmark and Czech Republic. Agreements with Canada, Korea and Norway have been finalized and will be signed shortly. Discussions with Sweden, Australia, USA and Japan are being pursued.

Complaints of NRIs on Flight Rates

2030. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had received complaints from NRIs regarding the hike in flight rates during vacations;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has taken this issue with concerned parties to give relief to NRIs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Complaints from NRIs have been received from time to time regarding the hike in flight rates during vacations. However, Airline fares are not regulated by the Government and airlines themselves decide fares based on the market conditions, revenue management needs and competition in the aviation sector.

Policy for selection of Information Commissioners

2031. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Information Commissioners are expected to retire shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any transparent policy has been formed for the selection of the Information Commissioners at Centre and States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and