

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Ministry is implementing several schemes for the purpose of engaging with the Indian Diaspora and enhancing protection and welfare of Indian emigrants. However, these schemes do not envisage any allocation to State Governments, except in case of the scheme for 'Skill and Pre-departure Orientation to prospective emigrant workers'. The Scheme is being implemented in partnership with the State Governments, the Ministry Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), as well as Apex Industry Associations, NGOs, etc. The objective of the Scheme is to promote overseas employment of Indian workers and to improve productivity and prosperity amongst overseas Indian workers through Skill development of emigrant Indian Workers and equipping them with the basic knowledge about laws, language and culture of the destination countries. Under this Scheme, Rs. 32 lakh has been released to the State Government of Goa.

Indian Stranded in Foreign Countries

2775. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many Indian youths were stranded in many countries due to fraud by the agents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the High Commissions abroad have been asked to help such affected Indian youths; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Emigration of Indian workers seeking employment in 17 Emigration Check Required (ECR) notified countries is regulated under the Emigration Act, 1983. Indian missions in the ECR countries have reported that they are not aware of significant number of Indian youths stranded due to fraud by the agents.

During the period, from January to July, 2010 Malaysia has reported 90 cases of Indian workers, who were brought to Malaysia without proper documents and Kuwait has reported 14 such cases. Syria has reported 80 such cases for the period January, 2009 to July, 2010.

(c) and (d) Indian Missions extend help s and when overseas Indian workers require assistance. In addition, in all the 17 ECR notified countries Indian Community Welfare Fund has been established to extend onsite welfare services to all overseas Indians in distress.

Indian Stabbed in New Zealand

2776. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS AND INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the last week of January an Indian was stabbed to death in New Zealand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Embassy in Auckland tried to find out the reasons behind the murder;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there is any racial discrimination attached to the attack?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) Mr. Mohini Hiren Pravinchandra, a taxi driver in Auckland, was stabbed to death on January 31, 2010 by a passenger. His taxi veered off the road and crashed into a tree. The High Commission in New Zealand took up the matter at the highest level and is also in constant touch with the family of the deceased. The investigation has revealed that this is a crime of general nature (robbery/hooliganism). The investigating authorities have identified the culprit, who fled to China & has been apprehended by Chinese Police. New Zealand Police authorities are working through diplomatic channels for trial of the culprit. To ensure safety of taxi drivers, New Zealand Government proposes to introduce legislation in Parliament making it mandatory to install security cameras and improved communication links in the taxis in larger towns and cities in New Zealand.

- (e) There appears to be no racial dimension to this incident.

Setting up of return and RE-Settlement fund

2777. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: