

Indian diaspora youth on the different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in the various fields of economy, industry, education, science and technology, communication and information technology and culture. After their three weeks stay in India, the participants are expected to become cultural ambassadors of India in their respective countries of domicile and serve as bridges for a symbiotic relationship.

Workers going to Gulf countries from Rajasthan

‡393. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year thousands of labourers from Rajasthan go to gulf countries for employment;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints regarding exploitation of these labourers;

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government so far to check the exploitation of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian missions, in the Gulf countries have not reported any incident of inhuman treatment particularly to Indian workers from Rajasthan. However, cases of complaints from Indian Workers relating to fraudulent offers for overseas employment, contractual violations and cheating on the part of foreign employers/recruiting agents are received from time to time.

(c) The details of the complaints, including fraudulent practices, received against registered agents as well as unregistered agents during the last two years and action taken thereon are given in Table A and B, respectively, of Statement-I (See below). As far as unregistered agents are concerned the matter is referred to state governments for penal action.

(d) The Government has taken several initiatives to protect the welfare of Overseas Indian Workers. A list of such initiatives is given in the Statement-II.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Details of Workers going to Gulf countries from Rajasthan

Table-A

Complaints received against registered recruiting agents and action taken thereof:

| Year | No. of complaints | Show Cause Notice | No. of Registration Certificate suspended/ cancelled | No. of complaints/ dropped/ resolved | Cases pending which are being followed up |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|---|---|
| 2008 | 118 | 118 | 29 | 89 | 0 |
| 2009 | 158 | 158 | 51 | 33 | 74 |
| 2010 (upto 30.9.10) | 78 | 78 | 18 | 06 | 54 |

Table-B

Complaints received against unregistered recruiting agents and action taken thereof:

| Year | No. of complaints | Prosecution sanction issued | Cases referred to State Government/ POE for Action |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 2008 | 93 | 56 | 37 |
| 2009 | 136 | 14 | 136 |
| 2010 (upto 30.10.2010) | 106 | 10 | 106 |

Statement-II

Details of workers going to Gulf countries from Rajasthan

Whenever, a complaint is received, action is initiated by the Ministry for suspension or cancellation of the Registration Certificate of the Recruiting Agent. If required, he is also prosecuted through the State Police. Complaints filed against illegal agents are referred to the State

Governments. When there is a complaint against a foreign employer, proceedings for black listing such employer are initiated. Indian missions also take up these issues with the foreign employers/local governments to protect the welfare of the workers.

The Government has taken several initiatives to protect the welfare of Overseas Indian Workers which include:

- (i) The Ministry has notified the Emigration (Amendment) Rules 2009 on 9th July, 2009 revising the eligibility criteria of Recruiting Agents (RAs) and enhancing the validity period of the Registration Certificate and increasing the security amount and service charges.
- (ii) A National Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign has been launched to create wider awareness among the general public and particularly among the potential migrants on the risks of illegal migration and safeguards against illegal practices by unauthorized intermediaries and fraudulent recruiting agencies.
- (iii) The Ministry has set up the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in 42 Countries for providing onsite support and financial assistance to Indian workers in distress.
- (iv) An Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) runs as a 24X7 helpline in 7 languages which protects interests of Overseas Workers as well as prospective emigrants.
- (v) India had signed Labour Agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s to protect the interest of the Indian Workers. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with United Arab Emirates (UAE) in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April, 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009, and with Bahrain in June 2009. An Additional Protocol to the existing Labour Agreement between India and Qatar was signed in November, 2007.

These MoUs enhance bilateral co-operation in management of migration and protection of labour welfare. Under these MoUs a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted that meets regularly in order to resolve bilateral labour issues.

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394. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: