

employment contract and return on the expiry of their employment contract or of the work visa period unless renewed. Indian workers also leave for other reasons such as personal circumstances or because of disputes with employers.

Since no official statistics on the number of expatriate Indian workers are maintained by the Indian Missions, accurate figures regarding the return of Indian workers are not available.

However, according to reports received from Indian missions and a study conducted on the impact of global recession in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Malaysia, it is estimated that the return/retraining of workers was significant only in UAE, during 2008-09. The estimated number of workers who returned to India as a result of the delay in execution of projects due to economic slowdown in UAE is minimal.

The steps taken by Government to protect jobs of overseas Indian workers include the following:-

- (i) When complaints are received from overseas Indian workers the Recruiting Agent is directed to settle/resolve the complaint in the first instance and to ensure that the Foreign Employer meets the terms of the contract.
- (ii) The Indian Mission when it receives complaints against foreign employers takes immediate action for redressal of the grievances of Indian workers.
- (iii) Indian Missions also recommend inclusion of defaulting foreign employers in the Prior Approval Category (Black list). This Ministry places such foreign employers on the PAC list, and allows such employers to recruit Indian workers only after prior approval.

#### **Assistance for Skill Upgradation Training Programme**

1769. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for Central assistance for Skill Upgradation Training Programme of Non Resident Keralites returning to the State; and

(b) if so, whether Government would sanction the funds requested?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala had sent a proposal for Skill up gradation training to potential emigrant workers from the State, as part of the Action Plan. The proposal is not specifically for returnee migrants. The proposal received from the State has been sent to the Planning Commission for inclusion under the Plan Scheme for allotment of funds to this Ministry to facilitate implementation of the Scheme.