

- (a) whether any rules have been framed for enrolment of NRIs in the electoral roll;
- (b) the procedure of enrolment;
- (c) whether there is any provision for the NRIs to exercise their franchise through the Embassies in the respective foreign countries where they are residing; and
- (d) if not, the procedure of casting the votes in the case of NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Citizens of India, living abroad, who have not acquired the citizenship of any other country can make an application in Form 6A directly to Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of the constituency within which the place of residence of the applicant as given in the valid passport, falls. Every eligible Non Resident Indian may send the application along with necessary documents duly self attested in accordance with the rule notified by Government in this regard, either directly or by post to the ERO.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Non-Resident Indians registered with ERO of their constituency may cast their vote if they are physically present in their constituency at the time of election.

#### **Workers mislead to UAE**

826. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Indian workers are misled to UAE without any job securities and even the Indian workers are refused medical care;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to provide necessary assistance and access to medical care in case of emergency in UAE; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Embassy of India in UAE has informed that they have not come across any wide spread system, in which workers are misled to UAE without job securities. UAE comprises of 7 Emirates. In Abu Dhabi Emirate it is mandatory to cover every worker with a medical insurance. However, this facility is not available to Indian workers in other 6 Emirates. As far as the personal accidents and life insurance is concerned, every registered Indian worker in the UAE is expected to be covered under the Workmen's Compensation Regulation. In cases of destitutes, emergency medical care

is also provided under the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) is also functioning at Dubai for taking care of emergency needs of Indian workers. Besides, every emigrant with Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports seeking employment overseas in the 17 ECR countries has to compulsorily obtain an insurance policy under Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana (PBBY). The medical benefits in emergent situations under the PBBY are as under:-

- (i) If a worker is not received by the employer on his arrival at the destination abroad or there is any substantive change in the employment contract to his disadvantage or if the employment is prematurely terminated within the period of employment for no fault of the emigrant, the insurance company reimburses one way economy class airfare provided the grounds of repatriation are certified by the Indian Mission/post concerned.
- (ii) The insured person is paid actual one-way economy class airfare by the insurance company, if he falls sick or is declared medically unfit to commence or continue working and the service contract is terminated by the foreign employer within 12 months of taking the insurance.
- (iii) The insurance policy also provides medical cover of Rs.75,000 on grounds of accidental injuries or sickness occurring during the period of insurance during employment.
- (iv) The insurance policy provides maternity benefits, subject to minimum cover of Rs.25,000.
- (v) The family of the emigrant worker in India consisting of spouse and two dependent children upto 21 years of age are entitled to hospitalization cover for a maximum amount of Rs.25,000.

#### **Indians settled in foreign countries**

827. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that thousands of Indians have settled in foreign countries;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that the Overseas Indians do not want to be uprooted from Indian culture; and
- (c) if so, the steps that are being taken to give them dual citizenship?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Yes, Sir.