

conveyed that it would seek to facilitate travel by Indian scientists within the framework of its regulations.

Labourers going abroad from Rajasthan

†1765. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that thousands of labourers go to Gulf countries for employment every year from the State of Rajasthan;
- (b) whether Government has received any complaints regarding exploitation of labourers in 2011-12;
- (c) if so, the action taken thereon and the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government till date to check the exploitation of labourers and the details thereof?

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

(b) 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. During 2011, a specific case has been received through the Government of Rajasthan wherein it has been informed that workers including 190 from Rajasthan have not been paid salary by the employer, M/s Al Seh Company Limited, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). In addition to this, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs also received six complaint cases against unauthorised agents from Rajasthan during 2011-12.

(c) The complaint against M/s Al Seh Company, Riyadh has been referred to the Indian Embassy which is in touch with the Saudi Company to resolve the problems of Indian Workers. All six complaints against unauthorized agents have been forwarded to the State Government of Rajasthan for inquiry and report.

(d) 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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Governments. When there is a complaint against a foreign employer, proceedings for blacklisting such an 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 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 all 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 eight 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 interests of 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 Joint Working Groups (JWG) have been constituted that meet regularly in order to resolve bilateral labour issues.

Racial attacks in Australia and USA

1766. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL :

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indians have been attacked/have faced racial violence in foreign countries particularly in Australia and USA;