

**Migrant labours exploited under Kafala system**

1470. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of migrant labours are exploited under the Kafala system and are faced with the problems including nonpayment of wages, arrest, detention, deportation and also charged with criminal offences such as absconding, try to run away from the country of destination, etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Government to protect Indian migrant labourers from "Kafala system"?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):

(a) The cases of employer-employee disputes are received from time to time with complaints of non-payment/delayed payment or underpayment of salaries, non-renewal of visa and labour card on time, unsatisfactory living conditions including sub-standard food at the camp site, refusal to pay for the medical treatment of the worker, denial of leave and air ticket to the hometown on completion of two years period of contract, physical assault/sexual harassment, etc.

(b) Sponsorship System is the internal matter of the country concerned.

Further, whenever a complaint is received, the Indian Mission concerned provides assistance such as mediating between Indian worker and his sponsor for amicable settlement of the matter, helping the Indian worker in the Labour Courts, taking up the matter with local authorities if required and in deserving cases, providing financial assistance from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). Also an effort is made to sensitize intending migrants about the implications of the Sponsorship System.

**Indian workers detained in Kuwait**

1471. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 2,000 Indian workers have been detained in Kuwait recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Embassy in Kuwait has established contacts with the detained Indian workers;