

8. In addition other measures to ease the implementation of the regime have also been introduced. Normally, the same check-post and same mode of journey for entry and exit would be permitted. In cases where the applicant, at the time of application, has indicated clearly an Exit point different from the Entry point or a mode of Exit journey different from the mode of Entry journey, it can be allowed. However, this is subject to the exception that Exit from Wagha/Attari, by road (on foot) cannot be accepted, unless the entry was also on foot *via* Attari/Wagha. Furthermore in the matter related to the mandatory police reporting/registration, persons of more than 65 years of age and children below 12 years of age, and prominent businesspersons eligible for one year multiple entry visas for upto 10 places, will be exempted from Police Reporting.

9. Thus, the new Visa Agreement significantly liberalizes the bilateral visa regime in operation between the two countries. It introduces several measures aimed at easing travel between the countries of business persons, tourists, pilgrims, the elderly and children. This will facilitate greater, contacts between peoples of the two countries who remain at the heart of the India-Pakistan relationship.

The House adjourned at two minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Bilateral agreement on service conditions of migrant labourers

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

(a) whether Government has signed bilateral agreement with many migrant labour receiving countries regarding wages and service conditions of migrant labour of Indian origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received complaints against some migrant labour agents and contractors; and

(d) if so, the action that has been taken against those contractors?

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

(a) and (b) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the major Labour receiving

Countries for ensuring protection and welfare of our emigrants have been signed. MoU were signed with United Arab of Emirates (UAE), Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia and Bahrain.

The broad principles underlying the finalization of these MOUs are as follows:

- (i) Declaration of mutual intent to enhance employment opportunities and for bilateral cooperation in protection and welfare of workers.
- (ii) The host country to take measures for protection and welfare of the workers in organized sector.
- (iii) Statement of the broad procedure that the foreign employer shall follow to recruit Indian workers.
- (iv) The recruitment and terms of employment to be in conformity with the laws of both the Countries.

A Joint Working Group (JWG) is also constituted to ensure implementation of the MoU and to meet regularly to find solutions to bilateral labour problems.

(c) and (d) Whenever a complaint is received against a registered Recruiting Agent, action is taken by the Ministry, as per the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. Complaints filed against illegal/unauthorized agents are referred to the State Governments concerned for enquiry and action.

Action taken with regard to unregistered agents and registered agents during the last three years is given below:

Year	Case of Unregistered Agents referred to State Governments	Action against registered agents
2009	136	158
2010	166	145
2011	225	212
2012 (Till 31.10.2012)	254	234

Scams in banks

†*83. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.