

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration to bring a Real Estate Regulator Bill to protect home buyers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced and passed in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) In order to bring in transparency, provide a uniform regulatory environment and enforce disclosure, fair practice and accountability norms in buying and selling of the residential properties, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has drafted a Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill in consultation with all stakeholders viz., Central Government Ministries, State/ Union Territory Governments, Consumer Welfare Associations, Real Estate Developers' Associations, etc.

The said Bill seeks compulsory registration and public disclosure of Real Estate housing projects above a threshold, and provides for establishment of a 'Real Estate Regulatory Authority' and 'Real Estate Appellate Tribunal' in each State with specified functions, powers, and responsibilities to ensure transparency, quick redressal of grievances and resolution of disputes.

The Bill is under consideration. However, no time-frame for its introduction in Parliament can be assigned at this juncture.

Problems of Keralites in Saudi Arabia

3301. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that thousands of Indians particularly Keralites working in Saudi Arabia have started coming back losing their jobs following the strict implementation of its labour policy known as Nitaquat which mandates that 5 to 25 per cent staff of a private company with minimum 49 employees must be Saudis;

(b) if so, the details of the workers who have come back so far; State-wise; and

(c) the measures that are being taken for their rehabilitation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The Indian Mission in Riyadh has reported an increase in the number of Indians at deportation centres in Saudi Arabia in the last week of March, 2013. This is largely on account of the drive against illegal workers in Saudi Arabia. A drive against illegal workers affects both the illegal workers working in companies affected by the 'Nitaquat' policy of the Saudi Government, or in companies not affected by this policy. As of April 7, 2013 as many as 15000 Indians has already requested for the issue of documents to travel to India (Emergency Certificates) from the Embassy of India, Riyadh. Of the EC applications received and processed by the EOI, Riyadh in the 1st week of April, which are on account of both drive against illegal workers, and on account of strict implementation of the 'Nitaquat' policy, the State-wise distribution of applicants was mainly from Uttar Pradesh [338], Andhra Pradesh [186], Tamil Nadu [184], Rajasthan [73], Bihar [60], Kerala [49], West Bengal [39], Karnataka [28] and Uttarakhand [24].

(c) The State Governments of the major labour-sending States have been advised to take appropriate steps in this regard.

Pension/insurance scheme for overseas Indian workers

3302. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any Pension and Life Insurance Fund scheme for the overseas Indian workers having Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the objectives of the scheme and eligibility criteria; and
- (d) the details of overseas Indian workers' contribution in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) on 1st May, 2012 on a pilot basis.

(b) and (c) The aims and objectives of MGPSY is to encourage and enable overseas Indian workers having Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports going to ECR countries, to (a) save for their return and resettlement and (b) save for their pension. They are also provided Life Insurance cover against natural death, during the period of coverage, without any additional payment by them.