

(c) if so, the issues which India would like to take up with the Pakistan Government on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan has publicly articulated his commitment to seek a relationship with India defined by peace, friendship and cooperation.

India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan, through a peaceful bilateral dialogue in an environment free from violence and terror which has been conveyed to Pakistan. Continued terrorism emanating from Pakistan and territories under its control remains a core concern for us. Unprovoked incidents on the Line of Control by the Pakistan Army, also have consequences for our bilateral ties.

Pakistan must uphold the sanctity of the Line of Control and abide by the ceasefire commitment of 2003 along the international border and Line of control. Pakistan must also show determined action to dismantle the terrorist networks, organizations and infrastructure and show tangible movements on bringing those responsible for the Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008 to justice quickly.

#### **Exploitation of workers from Rajasthan in Gulf countries**

†1435. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year thousands of workers from Rajasthan go to Gulf countries for employment;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints regarding the exploitation of workers in the year 2012-13, if so, the action taken thereon along with the details thereof, and

(c) the details of the measures taken by Government so far to prevent the exploitation of workers?

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

(b) Indian Missions, in the Gulf countries have reported that they do not

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

maintain State-wise data of Indian workers. However, cases of complaints from Indian workers relating to fraudulent offers for overseas employment, non-payment or delay in payment of salaries, long working hours, inadequate living conditions, physical harassment, refusal of leave or 'exit/re-entry permits', 'final exit visa' and cheating on the part of foreign employers/recruiting agents are received from time to time. The details of complaints received are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) The Government has taken several initiatives to protect the welfare of overseas Indian workers. A list of such initiatives is given in the Statement-II.

***Statement-I***

*Number of complaints received by Indian Missions from Indian workers in Gulf countries during the year 2012-13.*

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Number of complaints received
1.	Muscat	2312
2.	Riyadh	2852
3.	Jeddah	1421
4.	Doha	3498
5.	Abu Dhabi	412
6.	Kuwait	4339
7.	Bahrain	1340

***Statement-II***

*List of initiatives taken for welfare of overseas Indian workers*

Whenever, a complaint is received, if it is against a registered Recruiting Agent, actions are taken as per provisions under the Emigration Act, 1983. Complaints filed against illegal agents are referred to the State Governments. When there is a complaint against a foreign employer, proceedings for black listing such employer are initiated. Indian Missions also taken 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, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) A 24x7 toll-free helpline *viz.* Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been set up in Delhi to enable emigrants/ prospective emigrants to seek information and file complaints against Recruiting Agents/ Foreign Employers.
- (ii) Migration Resource Centres (MRCs) at Cochin, Hyderabad and Panchkula (Haryana).
- (iii) A Nation-wide Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign through Media to educate potential emigrants including benefits or hazards of legal and illegal migration respectively.
- (iv) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been established in all the Indian Missions for on-site welfare of emigrants. Around 28,000 emigrants have benefitted from the Scheme during the last three years and Rs.37 crores has been utilized for the purpose.
- (v) For redressal of grievances at Dubai at the Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) there is a 24x7 toll free multilingual helpline. Other Missions also have helpline/help desk to attend to grievances of Indian nationals.
- (vi) Computerized emigration clearance system exists in all PoE offices. Security stickers are now pasted on the passport, giving information about the RAs, name of foreign employer, occupation, wages, insurance policy number, passport/visa number and the helpline number.
- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding on employment of workers (MoU): India has signed Labour agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s. The Ministry, after its creation in 2004, made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the major receiving Countries for ensuring protection and welfare of our emigrants. MoU were signed with United Arab of Emigrates (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.

(viii) In addition, the Government has taken the following measures for protecting the safety and welfare of women workers of the ECR (Emigration Check Required) category to emigrate to 17 notified countries:

- (i) Age restriction of 30 years for women emigrating on ECR passports to ECR countries.
- (ii) Minimum referral wage for emigrants fixed by Mission.
- (iii) Security deposit of US\$ 2500 to be paid by foreign employer
- (iv) Compulsory pre-attestation of employment documents by the Indian Mission concerned for all women emigrants.
- (v) Re-paid mobile phone facility for Housemaids to be provided by foreign employer.
- (vi) Operating shelters for distressed emigrants by Indian Missions.

**Permission to accused Italian naval to leave country**

1436. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Central Government not making any objection before Supreme Court for granting permission to allow accused Italian naval personnel to go Italy, as despite the serious charges, they have allowed to go outside the country;

(b) the action that has been taken by Government to avoid situation emerged in nation and internationally, as at earlier stage when the Italian authority has denied to hand over the accused personnel to India, which create huge anger among our countrymen and also hurt dignity of Supreme Court; and

(c) the steps that have been taken by Government to release Indian prisoners in Italian jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Supreme Court, *vide* its Order dated 22 February 2013, allowed an application by the two Italian Marines, Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, and permitted them to travel to Italy and to remain in the Republic of Italy for a period of four weeks after taking into account all facts of the case. The terms of the Supreme Court Order