

**Indian labour in Dubai, Qatar and Senegal**

\*233. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of migrant labour in Qatar, Dubai and Senegal is very bad which has been highlighted and expressed by human rights activists, BWI leaders and Amnesty International;

(b) if so, whether Government of India has made investigation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect Indian workers in Qatar and Dubai?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):  
(a) Government has not received any such report highlighting and expressing very bad condition of Migrant Labour in Dubai, Qatar and Senegal. The Indian Mission in Qatar has reported that the Mission has not come across any case to suggest that the condition of Indian migrant labour in Qatar is bad. The Indian Mission in UAE has reported that the general condition in UAE can be said to be satisfactory in view of small number of such complaints *vis-à-vis* the large size of population there. The Indian Mission in Senegal has informed that no complaint has been received by the Embassy on the condition of migrant Indian labour in Senegal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken several initiatives to protect the safety/welfare of overseas Indian workers which, *inter-alia*, include:—

- (i) A 24×7 toll-free helpline *viz.* Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been set up in Delhi and also at Qatar and UAE (Dubai) to enable emigrants/prospective emigrants to seek information and file complaints against Recruiting Agents/Foreign Employers.
- (ii) Migration Resource Centres (MRCs) at Cochin (Kerala), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Panchkula (Haryana).
- (iii) For redressal of grievances the Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) is located at Dubai which functions on a 24×7 toll free multiple helpline. Other Missions also have helpline/help desk to attend to grievances of Indian Nationals.
- (iv) Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been established in all the Indian Missions for on-site welfare of emigrants. 5,660 emigrants of UAE and 4916 number of emigrants from Qatar have been benefited from the scheme during the last three years.

- (v) A Nation-wide Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign through electronic and print Media to educate potential emigrants including benefits/hazards of legal/illegal migrations.
- (vi) Computerized emigration clearance system exists in all POE offices. Security stickers are 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) Pre-attestation of employment documents by the Indian Mission concerned in respect of vulnerable and housemaid category of intending emigrants.
- (viii) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has signed Bilateral Agreement/Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) on labour with Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia and Bahrain for ensuring protection and welfare of our emigrants.
- (ix) 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 who emigrate to 17 notified ECR countries:—
  - (a) Age restriction of 30 years for women emigrating on ECR passports to ECR countries.
  - (b) Minimum referral wage for emigrants fixed by Mission.
  - (c) Security deposit of US\$ 2500 to be paid by foreign employer.
  - (d) Compulsory pre-attestation of employment documents by the Indian Mission concerned for all women emigrants.
  - (e) Pre-paid mobile phone facility for Housemaids to be provided by foreign employer.
  - (f) Operating shelters for distressed emigrants by Indian Missions.

#### **Time taken in issuing passports**

\*234. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in spite of separate and special arrangements being made for issuing of passports to Haj pilgrims, the average time taken in issuing passports to them is longer than others, if so, the details in this regard;
- (b) the number of passport applications pending in various Regional Passport Offices including those which are longest pending and the recent ones; and