

Awareness about MGPSY

1679. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took any initiative to create awareness of the Scheme of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) among Indian workers who are working in other countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any substantial increase among the beneficiaries under this Scheme since its inception and till now and if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

The details of the initiatives undertaken by the Government to create awareness of the scheme of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) among Indian workers, who are working in other countries are as under:—

- (i) The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material has been prepared in six languages commonly spoken by the emigrants. They are Hindi, Malayalam, Bengali, Tamil, Punjabi and Telugu. IEC material has been made available to Service Providers, Protector of Emigrants and Indian missions in UAE, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.
- (ii) The Ministry has sanctioned awareness cum enrolment camps in the worker camps in UAE.
- (iii) Media Campaign has also been taken up.
- (iv) Indian Missions in GCC countries are also being involved for creating awareness.

(b) MGPSY is a voluntary scheme. In the Financial Year 2012-13, 45 persons subscribed for MGPSY.

In the financial year 2013-14, 45 additional persons have subscribed for MGPSY as on 28th January, 2014.

Amendment in the Indian Immigration Act

1680. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is amending the Indian Immigration Act as per the recommendation of the Standing Committee; and

(b) the details of the recommendation of the Standing Committee and the reason

due to which it was delayed and by when Government is bringing these amendments in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):
(a) Amendment in Emigration Act, 1983 is not under the consideration of the Government. However, this Ministry is engaged in inter-ministerial consultations to draft a new Emigration Management Bill.

(b) In view of reply to part (a), the question of any delay in bringing these amendments in the Parliament does not arise. The Standing Committee has recommended early introduction of the aforementioned Bill. The necessary consultations on the Bill are not complete. Therefore, time limit for the introduction of the said Bill cannot be indicated.

Complaints of Indian women working abroad

1681. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian women working as domestic workers and nurses in middle east countries; and

(b) whether there are complaints of physical and sexual harassment cases received by Government of India, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):
(a) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs gives Emigration Clearance for Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders emigrating for work to any of the 17 notified ECR countries. Women domestic workers are generally ECR passport holders, but Nurses are not. Emigration clearance has been granted, during the last three years, to 53616 women domestic workers for middle east countries.

(b) At times, complaints from women workers, including domestic workers, are received which pertain to ill-treatment by the employer or non-payment/delayed payment or underpayment of salaries, wages and other related grievances. About 1408 women have approached the Indian Mission in the middle east countries for assistance/redressal of grievances, during the last three years.

On receipt of such complaints, Missions immediately take up the matter with the employer and get the same resolved amicably. Whenever amicably solution could not be arrived at, the matter is taken up with the concerned local authorities. Legal assistance and counseling, if required, is also provided.

In major Gulf countries, Shelter Homes are run by the Indian Missions to offer free boarding and lodging to distressed Indian women workers. They are also given