

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

medical assistance, if required. Free air-tickets are provided to them to return to India, including travel expenses from nearest airport to their respective place of residence. In case they have no travel documents, they are provided Emergency Certificate on gratis basis. Immigration clearances are also obtained from the authorities concerned for their hassle free travel to India.

Indians in jails of Gulf Countries

1682. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indians are being kept in jails in Gulf Countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to get the release of the innocent people?

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

(a) The number of Indians in jails in Gulf Countries as reported by Indian Missions are given below:—

Name of Country	No. of Indians in jails
Qatar	72
Kuwait	250
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Jeddah)	568
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	1400
Bahrain	76
Oman	106
United Arab Emirates	1025
TOTAL:	3497

(b) Some Indian nationals are jailed for crimes like violation of immigration/visa rules, overstay, illegal entry, non-possession of valid travel document/valid visa/permit, etc. However, some Indians have also been jailed for grave offences like drug trafficking, murder, rape, etc.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad always strive to respond promptly to the requests/appeals by Indian citizens who are in distress. As soon as the information about detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by the Indian Mission/Post, it immediately gets in touch with the local Foreign Office and other concerned local