

authorities to get consular access to the detained/arrested Indian national to confirm his Indian nationality and ensure his welfare. In some countries where *pro bono* lawyers are available, the Mission arranges such legal assistance to the Indian prisoners.

Provisions under the Indian Community Welfare Fund for payment of small fines/penalties for the release of Indian nationals in jails/detention centres are also utilised.

Steps taken by Indian Missions/Posts include requesting local authorities for speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in jails and issue of emergency certificates. Our Missions also forward mercy petitions received from the family members of convicted Indians on charges of murder for clemency and release.

Exploitation of workers from Maharashtra in Gulf Countries

1683. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether Government has received any complaints regarding the exploitation of workers in last three years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):
(a) Emigration clearance granted to workers from Maharashtra to go to Emigration Check Required (ECR) Countries during the last three years *i.e.* 2011, 2012 and 2013, is as follows:—

2011	2012	2013
16,698	19,259	19,579

(b) From time to time complaints are received from the emigrants against the registered recruiting agents which generally relate to overcharging, non-fulfillment of contractual obligations, ill-treatment by the foreign employer etc.

Similarly, complaints are also received against unregistered agents who are not registered under the Emigration Act, 1983. State-wise data of complaints received is not maintained. However, position of complaints received against the registered and unregistered Recruiting Agents during the last three years and action taken against them is given in Statement (*See* below).

When Indian emigrants face problem with foreign employers, the Indian Mission takes up such matters with the employer/emigrant/local authorities. If the employer is at fault, that employer is black-listed (Prior Approval Category) from further

employment of Indian workers in consultation with the Indian Mission concerned. As on 30.11.2013 511 foreign employers stand black listed.

Statement

Position of complaints received against the registered Recruiting Agents during the last three years and action taken against them

Year	Total	Show cause notice issued	Registration Certificate (RC)		Dropped/ Settled/ Resolved
			Suspended	Cancelled	
2011	212	212	20	44	95
2012	267	267	43	19	69
2013	240	240	20	13	64

Position relating to complaints received against unregistered agents during the last three years and action taken against them

Year	No. of complaints	Cases referred to State Government/ POE for action	Prosecution sanction sought by the State Government	Prosecution sanction issued
2011	225	225	9	9
2012	254	254	16	16
2013	272	261	05	05

Allocation of fund to Bihar under BRGF

1684. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and released to Bihar under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) during the last three financial years; year-wise details thereof; and

(b) whether State Government has spent the total funds released to it or there is unspent amount, year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):
(a) and (b) The amount allocated and released by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and utilisation reported under the District component of BRGF Programme in Bihar during the last three financial years is given in Statement.