

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	Assam	1,678	1,506	1,218	1,451	1,860
19.	West Bengal	11,685	10,109	13,470	10,342	11,380
20.	Jharkhand	669	690	939	4,554	3,592
21.	Odisha	1,758	1,657	2,155	2,622	2,815
22.	Chhattisgarh	1,089	1,206	1,741	1,472	1,556
23.	Madhya Pradesh	19,748	19,704	20,104	19,832	19,374
24.	Gujarat	19,992	27,939	51,781	68,235	58,627
25.	Daman & Diu	107	126	83	76	64
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	105	77	103	93	93
27.	Maharashtra	11,896	14,496	15,606	16,136	19,826
28.	Andhra Pradesh	9,144	9,204	9,260	8,200	9,247
29.	Karnataka	17,195	18,434	21,021	24,208	25,966
30.	Goa	112	88	97	103	169
31.	Lakshadweep	23	24	8	11	9
32.	Kerala	10,956	11,089	11,071	13,551	14,997
33.	Tamil Nadu	41,799	57,902	70,639	90,974	116,393
34.	Puducherry	200	186	120	86	76
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	68	78	82	100	100
ALL INDIA		213,206	238,429	282,428	322,818	362,991

Source: The State/UT Commissionerates/Directorates of Industries & MSME-Development Institutes, O/o DC (MSME), M/o MSME.

Indians arrested due to Nitaqat programme

2899. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indians in Saudi Arabia had been arrested due to Nitaqat programme; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for safe return of all such Indians from Saudi Arabia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [(GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) The Embassy of India in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has stated that there have been no reports of large scale arrest of Indian workers, after the three months grace period, announced for the Nitaqat programme, although there may be a few cases of Indians from the very large Indian community, who have been deported from Saudi Arabia.

(b) The steps taken by the Government for safe return of all such Indians from Saudi Arabia affected due to implementation of 'Nitaqat' are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia had taken several steps for the safe return of Indians from Saudi Arabia.

The Indian community in Saudi Arabia was encouraged to transcend sectarian, religious, regional and language barriers and work together to help their brothers and sisters in need. This was a unifying exercise for the Indians in Saudi Arabia, which worked.

All Indians in Saudi Arabia were urged to fully utilize the grace period and correct their status. The Embassy organized several rounds of meetings with members of the Indian community in various cities of Saudi Arabia.

The Embassy used the social media, including the website and Facebook, to spread the message. The services of local print and electronic media were effectively used through regular interviews and press releases.

In response to the Embassy's call, 600 non-remunerative volunteers registered with the Embassy all across Saudi Arabia. They were the eyes and ears of the Embassy of India. The volunteers and their spouses served as channels of communication between the Embassy and the Indians in Saudi Arabia. They had made 3000 to 4000 telephone calls every day. By this action, the workers felt connected and secure.

The Embassy used the services of the 10 Indian community schools in Saudi Arabia in major cities. The teachers and non-teaching staff of these schools served as volunteers. The Indian community schools together have more than 60,000 students. Their parents also helped generate awareness.

The Embassy strengthened its 24x7 helpline with more lines and mobile units. Embassy mobile units were set up at the labour offices and *Tarheels* (exit visa offices) all over Saudi Arabia and at major -airports.

Embassy officers were permanently deployed at Dammam, while officers regularly visited other cities of Saudi Arabia. Embassy officials worked for more than 12 hours every day, for all seven days a week, without any holiday, during the 7-month Grace Period.

Emergency Certificates were issued free of cost. Special Gazette notification was issued for that purpose. Tents were erected. Desert coolers were provided and, when required, food and water was distributed to those who approached the Embassy.

As a result of all these efforts over 1,40,000 Indian workers were able to leave for India without facing any penal action or ban on their return.

Implementation of MGPSY

2900. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is implementing the scheme Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY), if so, the details of the scheme;
- (b) the details of funds earmarked, number of persons benefited/to be benefited under the scheme; and
- (c) to what extent the scheme would safeguard the Indians working in abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [(GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) is designed to enable and assist the Overseas Indian workers in Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries to voluntarily save for financially secure future. Under this scheme the Government of India also provides Co-contribution support to encourage them to save for their financially secure future. The salient features of MGPSY are as under:

- (i) Long term savings for “Pension” in old age through NPS-Lite by PFRDA.
 - Annual co-contribution of ₹1000 per male subscriber and ₹ 2000 per female subscriber, who save between ₹1000 and ₹12000 per annum towards their Pension Fund.
 - Apart from above, all eligible subscribers will get an additional