

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

co-contribution of ₹1000 per annum from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

- (ii) Short term savings for “Return & Resettlement (R&R) in India” through UTI-Monthly Income Scheme by UTI-MF

Annual co-contribution equal to 25% of the annual R&R saving of the subscriber, up to a ceiling of ₹900.

- (iii) Free-of-cost “Life Insurance” through *Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana* by LIC of India.

Life Insurance cover of ₹ 30,000 against natural death, and ₹ 75,000 against accidental death, valid through the period of overseas employment only. The scheme also provides coverage in case of permanent or partial disability.

These co-contribution benefits are offered for a period of 5 years (maximum) or till the return of workers to India, whichever is earlier.

- (b) An amount of ₹4 crore has been allocated during 2014-15 for implementing the scheme. As on date 196 persons have been benefitted under the scheme.

- (c) During their stay abroad, the scheme safeguards the Indian workers by providing them a life insurance cover against accidental or natural death as well as permanent or partial disability.

Upon their return to India, the scheme safeguards them against financial insecurity, by providing a “Return & Resettlement” fund and a Pension in old age.

#### **Officers belonging to SC/ST/OBC**

†2901. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of IAS/IPS/IFS officers as on date belonging to SC/ST/OBCs; and

- (b) whether they have not been given representation as per their population, and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The total number

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.