

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Saudi Arabia has a large number of Indian community of approximately 2.7 million. There have been no reports of targeted attacks/assaults on Indian citizens in Saudi Arabia. However, the Mission receives complaints from Indian workers and a majority of these pertain to labour disputes (non-payment or delay in payment of salaries and other benefits, refusal of leave or 'exit/re-entry permits' for visits to India, denial to arrange the 'final exit visa' to the worker to return to India after completion of the contract, etc.) and misbehaviour on the part of the Saudi employers. Most of the cases pertain to labourers who do not have proper employment contracts. The Mission is also approached by runaway housemaids or inmates of various jails/deportation centres in Saudi Arabia. The total number of labour complaints and housemaid cases handled by this Mission during the last 4 years is furnished below:

Year	No. of labour cases	No. of housemaid cases
2011	2330	207
2012	2781	177
2013	2608	258
2014	3548	184

(b) On receipt of labour complaints, the Embassy of India in Riyadh, takes up the issue with the Saudi sponsor and, where necessary, with the Saudi Government authorities concerned, as also with Recruiting Agents (RAs). Complaints against Indian RAs are sent to the concerned offices of the Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) for appropriate action at their end. Indian workers are also counseled to approach the concerned labour office, labour court, and passport/police authorities, for possible resolution of their grievance(s). The Mission also deposes officials to visit labour/general courts and the companies concerned for assisting the aggrieved Indian labourers. The Embassy of India deploys Arabic-knowing official(s) on a daily basis to assist Indian workers in lodging their complaints. Most of these cases are settled satisfactorily. The Embassy issues identity documents to all those workers who do not possess their passports with them if they desire to return to India.

Sanction of prosecution of Government Officials

53. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests for the sanction of prosecution of Government officials and/or employees that have been received under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 by the Government since 2000;

(b) the number of such requests that were permitted to sanction the prosecution of these officials in each year; and

(c) the number of such prosecutions undertaken that have resulted in a conviction, acquittal and/or dismissal of charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Department of Personnel and Training handles prosecution sanction cases under the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988 for Indian Administrative Service, Central Secretariat Service (Under Secretary and above level) and CBI (Gr' A) Officers only, being their Cadre Controlling Department. Sanction for prosecution is accorded under Section 197 Cr. PC for offences under the IPC and other statutes administered by different Ministries/Departments. Such sanction can be sought by different investigating agencies viz. State Law Enforcement Agencies, CBI, Police, etc. against Civil Servant who can be from different service cadres including State Services and All India Services officers posted in the State cadres, etc. The competent authority for granting sanction under Section 197 of Cr. PC for State Government in various ranks is the concerned State Government.

In view of multiple agencies involved in prosecution matters for which sanction is required under Section 197 Cr. PC and such matters being pursued independently by different State and Central investigating agencies, no consolidated information is available as regards such sanctions sought, granted and where such cases of prosecution have attained finality resulting in conviction/acquittal/dismissal of charges.

Relevant records for sanction for prosecution in corruption cases

54. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed the Union and State Governments to ensure that the Central Bureau of Investigation provides all relevant records at the time of seeking sanction for prosecution in corruption cases, so as to minimize delay, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether investigating agencies were not providing all the records, including FIR and statements of witnesses while seeking sanction, which is in turn was delaying Government's move on grant of sanction, if so, the such cases noticed during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Department of Personnel and Training has circulated Hon'ble Supreme Court's guidelines in judgement of Criminal