

Resettlement (R&R) fund in UTI-MIS under Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY). The R&R co-contribution is 25 percent of the annual R&R saving of the overseas Indian worker, subject to an annual ceiling of ₹ 900 per eligible subscriber.

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

A free of cost Life Insurance cover, against uncertainties such as natural/accidental death and disability, is provided to all subscribers who join Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) for the period of overseas employment, by the Government of India.

A life insurance cover of ₹ 30,000 against natural death and ₹75,000 against accidental death will be provided to the insured workers under Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY). The scheme also provides coverage in case of permanent or partial disability. The above mentioned Government co-contribution under the scheme is offered for a maximum period of 5 years or till the return of workers to India (whichever is earlier).

(b) Ministry has incurred a total expenditure of around ₹ 4.59 crores on Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) till 31st July 2015.

(c) and (d) Pension is already provided as a part of scheme benefits as explained in reply to part (a) of the Question. Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) being a voluntary scheme, the subscription under the scheme is very low. The scheme has not picked up for a variety of reasons. This Ministry is examining whether the existing scheme should continue in the present form considering the poor response received by the Scheme.

Integration of PIOs in development activities

2791. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) living in foreign countries;

(b) the number of PIOs given permanent Visa/Indian Overseas card;

(c) the policy of Government to integrate the Persons of Indian Origin in social, cultural and developmental activities in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to integrate more and more Persons of Indian Origin in the developmental activities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) The estimated population of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in foreign countries is around 1.71 crore.

(b) The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders are *inter alia* eligible for a lifelong visa for India. The number of OCI Cards issued till 07.08.2015 is 18,51,058.

(c) The policy of the Government to integrate PIOs with activities in the country, has been to facilitate and support mutually beneficial networks with Overseas Indians to maximize the development impact for India and enable them to invest and benefit from the opportunities in India.

(d) Steps taken to integrate more and more persons of Indian origin in the developmental activities of the country include the following:

- (i) The Ministry has established the India Development Foundation for Overseas Indians to provide a credible platform for Overseas Indians to make philanthropic contributions to development work in the country.
- (ii) The Overseas Investment Facilitation Centre (OIFC) has been formed as a Public Private Partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry to promote Overseas Indians' investments into India and facilitate business partnerships.

Labourers stranded in Saudi Arabia

†2792. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry is aware that many labourers of Purvanchal, Uttar Pradesh are stranded in Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard in last two years and the number of labourers who want to return to their country but Indian High Commission in Saudi Arabia is reluctant to help them; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that many eminent persons have written letters in this regard and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.