

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Manipur*	37	48	42	12
8.	Mizoram	122	213	278	49
9.	Tripura	150	126	118	30
10.	Meghalaya	581	641	118	88
11.	Assam	85	137	128	32
12.	Jharkhand*	2262	1994	1752	205
13.	Odisha	933	739	1010	133
14.	Chhattisgarh	709	592	798	85
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6630	6482	6621	130
16.	Gujarat	6005	5018	5008	1016
17.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	93	93	90	37
18.	Maharashtra	931	1002	2086	268
19.	Telangana	135	348	199	116
20.	Lakshadweep*	11	9	5	1
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
ALL INDIA		20922	19727	20091	2379

Note: (*) District-wise data not received for April to June, 2015, Estimated by taking simple average of the data available during 2014-15.

Seizing of passports of Indians abroad

1196. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most employers in the Gulf countries seize the passports of Indians engaged by them;

(b) whether any such instances have been brought to the notice of the Indian embassies in the Gulf region, if so, how many of such victims are from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, what steps are taken to help these victims;

(c) whether Government proposes to take up the issue at the diplomatic level with the countries concerned to end the menace; and

(d) whether Government considers offering counseling to Gulf bound youth, particularly seekers of low paid jobs before immigration clearance is given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) As per reports received from Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in July 2015, it is seen that the practice of keeping the passports of Indian workers by the employers is quite prevalent, though some countries have enacted laws against this, as shown below:

- (i) Saudi Arabia has enacted a law which provides that the passports of the workers should be in their possession.
- (ii) As per Qatari Labour laws sponsors/employers have no right to seize/retain the passports of expatriate workers in their custody.
- (iii) Bahrain Labour laws do not permit employer to retain the passports of their employees.
- (iv) UAE Government has given standing instructions about holders being allowed to retain their passports.

(b) Labour complaints received in such Indian Missions/Posts also relate to the passport being held by their sponsors. These Missions/Posts issue identity documents to those workers who do not possess their passports with them for returning to India. All the Indian Missions/Posts in GCC countries do not maintain State-wise data of such victims.

(c) The Government has signed MoUs on labour with major labour receiving countries including UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. Under these MoUs/Agreement, Joint Working Groups are constituted to find solutions to bilateral labour problems.

(d) The Ministry operates a 24x7 helpline (1800 11 3090) in 11 languages where all emigrants and prospective emigrants can have their doubts/queries related to overseas employment clarified.

Also, Migrant Resource Centres have been set up in Cochin, Hyderabad, Gurgaon and Chennai for providing information, guidance and counseling for intending migrants on overseas employment.

Duping of people in the name of jobs abroad

1197. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen reports that many people from Hyderabad, some of them middle aged women, are duped in the name of job offers in the Gulf and that they often end up doing menial jobs and household jobs for long hours;

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to check these rackets; and