

Rescue of Indians from Gulf countries

2016. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that large number of youth are going to Gulf countries in search of employment and facing innumerable problems there;
- (b) whether Government has any plan of keeping a data on this employment migration to Gulf countries, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has received any request recently for rescue of Indians sentenced to death on the involvement of drug trafficking in Kuwait; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Ministry to save them and bring back to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) It is a fact that about 7.5 lakh Indians emigrate to Gulf Countries every year legally after obtaining Emigration Clearance. However, age specific data of emigrants is not maintained. Indian Missions/Posts in four Gulf countries namely Bahrain, Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have reported that some Indian workers, who emigrate through illegal channels face problems such as non-payment of salaries, denial of legitimate labour rights and benefits, non-issuance/renewal of residence permits, overtime allowances, weekly holidays, working for longer hours, refusal to grant exit/re-entry permits for visit to India, refusal to allow the worker on final exit visa after completion of their contracts, non-providing of medical and insurance facilities etc. Incidents of confinement, abandoning of housemaids by their sponsors have also been reported.

(b) The Government has implemented since 31.03.2015, a digital system of Emigration Clearance (EC) called e-Migrate, in which the data of all emigrants holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport, emigrating for overseas employment to 18 ECR countries is captured. The details of number of emigrants who have emigrated to the Gulf countries during the last three years and current year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Ministry has recently received a reference requesting to rescue a few Indians sentenced for involvement in drug trafficking in Kuwait and explore

the possibility for reducing the death sentence to life imprisonment to be served in India.

(d) The Embassy through advisories cautions Indian community in Kuwait about the menace of drug trafficking, possession/use. The Embassy of India in Kuwait have informed, that they have requested concerned authorities in the Ministry of Justice, to show leniency/compassion in cases of Indian nationals under death sentence and grant mercy by reducing the execution sentence to life imprisonment. The Indian Mission, however, has very limited role in the release process of persons accused in drug trafficking cases. The release of accused or convicted persons solely depends upon the verdict of the Court as per law of the land. The Indian Mission in Kuwait has approached the Kuwaiti authorities to expedite the process of transfer of inmates, qualifying under the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (TSP) Agreement, to serve the remaining period of sentence in jails in India.

Statement

*Indian emigrants who have emigrated to the Gulf countries
(during the last three years and current year)*

Sl. No.	Country	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Up to 30-06-2016)
1.	Bahrain	17269	14220	15610	6670
2.	Kuwait	70072	80419	66523	39721
3.	Oman	63398	51318	84981	37643
4.	Qatar	78367	75935	59269	15870
5.	Saudi Arabia	354169	329937	306054	108859
6.	U. A. E.	202016	224033	225314	80695
7.	Iraq	6577	3054	1	0
TOTAL		791868	778916	757752	289458

MoU with USA to strengthen defence and economy

2017. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United States of America (USA) to strengthen strategic defence and economic partnership;