

Action against placement agents

†2419. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several illegal placement agents have been sending people to other countries through illegitimate methods and if so, the details of people transported to other countries in a fraudulent manner during the last three years;

(b) whether Government has taken any action against such illegal placement agents during that period and if so, the details thereof State/Union Territory-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of such cases in Uttar Pradesh brought to the notice of Government along with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Complaints are received from time to time by the Ministry of External Affairs from Indian emigrants or their relatives who are dispatched for overseas employment fraudulently by illegal agents and are thereafter subjected to cheating, denial of jobs, poor working conditions etc.

Since such persons are sent through illegal manner, unless the victims report or are caught by authorities, the details of the persons transported to other countries are not fully available.

As per the available records, number of cases forwarded to the State Government against illegal agents and number of Prosecution Sanctions issued during 2016-18 are given in Statement-I and II enclosed (*See* below).

On receipt of details of such illegal agents, reported by the victims, the complaints are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government and Police authorities urging them to apprehend illegal agents and prosecute them. On receiving request from the concerned State Government/Police authorities, Prosecution Sanction are issued expeditiously by the Ministry of External Affairs, enabling them to initiate legal action against the accused illegal agents.

In May 2016 Ministry of External Affairs issued a Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by States on receipt of complaints of cheating by illegal agents. Visual and print media campaigns are also launched from time to time for promoting legal and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

safe migration and encouraging emigrants to use the services of registered Recruiting Agents to avoid being trapped by illegal/fake agents.

In order to promote safe and legal emigration and to curb the activities of the overseas recruitment business being carried out by illegal agents, a high-level Conference of major labour sending States was convened on 10th January, 2018, in New Delhi, with External Affairs Minister as the chairperson during which, State Governments were, *inter-alia*, requested to pro-actively check the growth of illegal agents and to take strict action against them. They were requested to launch awareness campaigns in vernacular medium for wider coverage and assimilation, which has been done.

Details with respect to Uttar Pradesh are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Details of cases forwarded to State/UT Government against illegal agent/agency

Year	Total number of cases forwarded to State/UT Government	State-wise complaint details	
2016	231	State-wise breakdown of data not available for 2016	
Year	Total number of cases forwarded to State/UT Government	State	Complaints
1	2	3	4
2017	446	Andhra Pradesh	13
		Bihar	04
		Chandigarh	16
		Chhattisgarh	02
		Delhi	94
		Gujarat	08
		Haryana	14
		Himachal Pradesh	05
		Jammu and Kashmir	03
		Karnataka	11
		Kerala	15

1	2	3	4
		Madhya Pradesh	03
		Maharashtra	54
		Odisha	01
		Punjab	51
		Puducherry	01
		Rajasthan	11
		Tamil Nadu	28
		Telangana	17
		Uttar Pradesh	22
		Uttarakhand	06
		West Bengal	10
		TOTAL	446
2018 (upto 30th November, 2018)	322	Andhra Pradesh	04
		Bihar	04
		Chandigarh	10
		Chhattisgarh	01
		Delhi	70
		Gujarat	05
		Haryana	10
		Himachal Pradesh	03
		Jharkhand	04
		Karnataka	10
		Kerala	08
		Madhya Pradesh	02
		Maharashtra	40
		Manipur	02
		Mizoram	01
		Punjab	40

1	2	3	4
		Rajasthan	10
		Tamil Nadu	18
		Telangana	10
		Uttar Pradesh	61
		Uttarakhand	04
		West Bengal	05
		TOTAL	322

Statement-II*Details of prosecution sanctions issued*

Year	State/UT	Number of cases wherein request received for issue of prosecution sanction after investigation	Number of prosecution sanctions issued by Ministry of External Affairs
1	2	3	4
2016	Goa	1	1
	Kerala	3	3
	Maharashtra	1	1
	Punjab	8	8
	Rajasthan	4	4
	Tamil Nadu	15	15
	Telangana	10	10
	TOTAL	42	42
2017	Delhi	1	1
	Goa	1	1
	Kerala	5	5
	Punjab	3	3
	Rajasthan	5	5

1	2	3	4
	Tamil Nadu	5	5
	Telangana	10	10
	TOTAL	30	30
2018	@ Andhra Pradesh	4	4
	Delhi	1	1
	Goa	1	1
	Kerala	3	3
	Telangana	1	1
	Tamil Nadu	2	2
	Uttar Pradesh	3	3
	TOTAL	15	15

@ upto 30th November, 2018.

Fishermen in Pakistan's jails

†2420. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens and fishermen imprisoned in the jails of Pakistan and since when they have been imprisoned;

(b) whether any financial or other assistance has been provided by Government, to the family of such persons, and

(c) the action taken by Government for getting these people released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) As per India-Pakistan 'Agreement on Consular Access' signed on 21 May 2008, lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen of each country lodged in the jails of the other are exchanged on 1 January and 1 July of every year. According to the lists exchanged on 1 January 2019, Pakistan has acknowledged the custody of 483 fishermen and 54 civilian prisoners who are Indian or believed-to-

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