

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1354
ANSWERED ON- 14/12/2023

ILLEGAL MIGRATION TO THE US

1354. DR. V. SIVADASAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of Indian citizens who are illegal immigrants in the US, the data thereof since 2018;
- (b) the number of migrants from India who have lost their lives while crossing the US border, the year-wise data thereof since 2018;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the media reports regarding presence of more than 7 lakh illegal migrants from India in the US; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to enable Indian citizens to have legal emigration to the countries of their choice?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) According to immigration statistics published on the website of US Customs and Border Protection, data regarding the number of illegal Indian immigrants encountered by US authorities on their border is given below:

*Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Numbers	8027	1227	30662	63927	96917

*The above data is as per the US Fiscal Year (October to September) statistics.

Data regarding the number of Indian nationals who lost their lives while crossing the US border is not available.

(d) The Government accords highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.

Recruitment of Indian nationals for overseas employment is regulated under the Emigration Act 1983. Since 2015, the process of overseas employment for Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries is being processed through eMigrate portal, which is a faceless, paperless and cashless

digital platform to register Recruitment Agencies, Foreign Employers and issue of Emigration Clearance (EC) to prospective overseas migrant workers.

To promote legal migration, Ministry has taken several initiatives such as Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna (PBBY) and Pre-Departure Orientation & Training (PDOT) in ensuring that migrant workers undertake safe migration, have decent working and living conditions in destination countries, are aware of their rights and have access to the Government's welfare schemes. Further, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched the 'Surakshit Jayen Prashikshit Jayen' (Go Safe, Go Trained) campaign in 2018 to raise awareness among prospective emigrants.

Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements have been signed with France, U.K., Germany, Australia, Austria and Italy to harness India's demographic dividend and foster mobility for our students, academics, business people, and professionals. Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding have also been signed with Denmark , Japan, Portugal, Mauritius and Israel.

The Ministry is coordinating with State governments and relevant stakeholders to disseminate information on the benefits of safe and legal migration and overseas employment opportunities. Complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are referred to the State police for investigation and prosecution.
