

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2001**  
ANSWERED ON - 08/08/2024

**ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING BY EMBASSIES ABROAD**

2001. **SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE**

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

- (a) whether Government is following up the rising cases of human trafficking of Indian citizens to provide assistance to them via Indian Embassies abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has a detailed legal assistance and welfare measure plan to help such Indian victims abroad; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) Yes. The Government accords highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. Whenever any case of Indian national trapped in any foreign country comes to the notice of the Ministry, it takes pro-active measure through Missions/Posts abroad to rescue such person. Missions/Posts also take up these issues with the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned Government agencies of the host country like Immigration, Labour Department, Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs and law enforcement agencies etc., for prompt redressal. Government of India also takes up this issue at political level with the host Government from time to time.

In case Indian national in any country is in distress or have any grievance, they can reach out to our Mission/Post through various channels i.e. walk-in interview, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portal like MADAD, CPGAMS, and eMigrate, and social media etc. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in New Delhi and at Dubai (UAE), Riyadh & Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide assistance, guidance, and counselling to Indian national in distress.

Labor and Manpower Cooperation MOUs/Agreements that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower related issues are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates) and Jordan. Further, to safeguard the specific interest of domestic workers in GCC Countries, agreements on Labor Cooperation for Domestic Sector have been signed with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait.

Our Mission/Posts abroad also utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide necessary assistance, including legal, on means tested basis to Indian citizens abroad and their dependents in times of distress. Since year 2014 until March 2024, around Rs.656/- crores has been

utilized by Indian Missions/Posts abroad under the Fund and around 3,50,194 Indians were extended assistance.

Ministry keeps issuing advisories, media briefings and tweets about fake job rackets from time to time. Such communications are also issued by concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad through their websites, social media handles and the print media.

As and when complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are received, such matters are referred to the State police for investigation and prosecution. Information about illegal agents is also uploaded and updated on regular basis on the e-Migrate Portal. Till June 2024, a total of 3,042 illegal agents have been notified on the portal. Government is also aware of trafficking cases with respect to Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. Our Embassies have been active in securing the release and repatriation of Indian nationals in such cases. These issues have also been taken up at a political level with concerned authorities abroad.

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