

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 593
To be answered on 21st November, 2007

INDIAN WORKERS IN GULF

593. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian workers employed in the Gulf countries feel insecure as reported in "The Times of India" dated November 5, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to sign a contract with Qatar and other Gulf countries regarding labour laws in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): No, Sir.

However, there were two recent incidents in UAE where about 4300 workers of Pauling Middle East Company on 28.10.2007 and about 35,000 workers of Arabtec Construction Company on 1.11.2007, had gone on strike demanding increase in salary etc. Such instances are rare in UAE. However, on the intervention of the Indian Mission, the problem has been resolved. In respect of Pauling Middle East Company except 159 workers of many nationalities, who were detained for indulging in violence, all others were released. Of these 159 detained, 90 were Indians, all of whom have since been deported to India. In respect of Arabtec Company all the workers have gone back to work with the intervention of the Indian Mission and the local Government except 500 workers of many nationalities who were detained for various reasons.

(c) & (d): In December, 2006 the Government signed an MOU with the United Arab Emirates and in April, 2007 with Kuwait. An additional Protocol with Qatar to update the 1985 agreement was signed on 20th November, 2007. MOU with Malaysia has been initiated. Efforts are on to sign MOU with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen. Negotiations have been completed with Oman.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 683
To be answered on 21st November, 2007

ASSISTANCE TO WORKERS DEPORTED FROM GULF

683. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY;
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK;
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR;
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indian workers have been deported by the Gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether any aid/assistance has been provided to such workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Workers are deported by the Gulf countries from time to time for non-possession of valid visas /resident permits, violation of local laws etc. The details of Emergency Certificates issued /workers deported by the Gulf countries during the last two years is given below:

Year	Kuwait	Bahrain	UAE	KSA	Oman	Qatar
2006	1354	Nil	8030	26932	10480	2116
2007 (till Oct. 07)	8234	1481	40088	28904	1086	2050

Contd...2/-

(c) & (d): Indian Missions besides issuing EC as per rules provide assistance to such workers wherever required by way of liaising / coordinating with local authorities to clear cases against Indian nationals, provide assistance for filing complaints with the concerned local authorities and also provide financial assistance in the form of cost of food, air ticket, transport charges etc. to the destitute Indian workers to be deported to India. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in coordination with Indian Missions, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs and also Governments of various states organize smooth return of such deportees.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 726
To be answered on 21st November, 2007

ATTACKS ON INDIANS WORKING ABROAD

726. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Nationals working abroad and their families including the staff of Missions/Posts have been attacked;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith casualties as a result thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Attacks on Indian nationals in Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Latvia, Namibia, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic and Uganda have been reported. Details are given in the Annexure.

(c) Our Missions have remained in close contact with the local government and the security authorities with regard to safety and security of Indian nationals and their families.

Annexure referred to in answer to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 726 for answer on 21-11-2007

1. **Afghanistan** : In November 2005, a BRO personnel, Mr. M.R. Kutty was abducted and subsequently killed by Taliban militants. There have also been three attacks subsequently on the BRO personnel but no casualties.

In February 2006 Shri Kedor Bharath Kumar, an Indian Engineer working with M/s. Louis Berger Group Inc. of Washington for an internationally funded road project in Afghanistan was killed in a remote controlled mine blast along with three other foreign nationals.

In April 2006, Shri K. Suryanarayana, An Indian Engineer working with a Bahrain based firm – Al Moyaed, was kidnapped and killed by militants.

The Indian Consulates in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Herat have been attacked by grenades several times during the last three years. There have also been attacks on the personnel working in different projects in Afghanistan undertaken by Indian companies. However, there have been no casualties.

2. **Australia** : Between May and October 2006, several cases of assault and robbery against Indian students were reported from Sydney and Adelaide wherein these students were robbed of their belongings and beaten up. One student was admitted to a hospital. The number of such cases reported from Sydney and Adelaide are 12 and 14 respectively. There have been no casualties in these assaults.

3. **Bahrain** : There have been a few instances of violent acts against Indian nationals as part of the overall law and order situation.

4. **Cyprus** : Five cases of attacks on Indian Nationals were reported during the last three years in Limassol. There were no casualties.

5. **Germany** : Two incidents of attacks by neo-Nazis on Indian nationals occurred in Dresden in April 2007 and July 2007. On August 18, 2007 a group of Indian fair-goers was beaten up by a gang of Germans in Muegein, Saxony. There have been no casualties.

6. **Hungary** : An Indian tourist was beaten up by a group of local Hungarians who were in an inebriated condition.

7. **Iran**: In June 2005, two Indian nationals namely Mr. Ashok Kumar and Shri Ratan Lal were attacked at Shiraz. Mr. Ashok Kumar died on the spot and Shri Ratan Lal was seriously injured.

8. **Iraq** : 14 Indian nationals have got killed in indirect firing by insurgent groups.

9. **Latvia** : On 4th March 05 a person working in an Indian Restaurant in Riga was physically assaulted in a market place by some Latvian youths.

Contd..2....

10. **Namibia** : Mrs Priya Gupta wife of Shri Pieyush Gupta, formerly Attache, High Commission of India was robbed at knife point by robbers on 26 January 05 while she was walking back to her house from a nearby clinic. She suffered minor injuries.

11. **Nepal**: In March 2006, General Manager of Ganga Udyog was attacked by unidentified criminals. In September 2006, some persons, Maoists reportedly entered Triveni spinning Mills, Bara and assaulted Indian labourers. In October 2006, commercial manager of Unilever Nepal was abducted from Heutada by suspected Maoists activist and was assaulted. In January 2007, Assistant Admn Officer of Universal College of Medical Sciences, Bhairahawa was attacked by some students of the college.saulted. In January 2007, an India citizen was shot at and injured by Nepalese security forces at Jogbani during the Terai unrest. In January 2007, one Indian national was murdered in Kathmandu by local criminals. In March, 2007, five students of Nepalgunj Medical College were attacked by Nepalese citizens in which one was seriously injured. In April 2007, a group of locals entered Medical College, Bharatpur and assaulted two doctors. In June 2007, one unidentified gunman shot and injured one Indian national in Kathmandu. In October 2007, one young Indian boy was kidnapped and murdered by unidentified group in Kathmandu

12. **Philippines**: There have been occasional incidents of Indian nationals becoming victims of kidnap-for-ransom, and murder resulting in 8 deaths in 2004, 11 deaths in 2005 and 18 deaths in 2006.

13. **Poland**: Shri Harish Hitange, an Indian National, was kidnapped in April 2004 by some unknown person. The victim has not been traced as of date.

14. **Russian Federation** : Shri B. Mange Ram, Attache, Embassy of India, Moscow was assaulted on December 23, 2006 by a group of 5 unknown persons, apparently under the influence of alcohol.

In September, 2007, at Tver, Russia, three Indian students studying in Tver Medical University) were attacked by a group of drunken Russian hooligans. While two students escaped, one student, Diwakar Verma suffered serious injuries and was in comatose condition for a month till he recovered enough to be transported back to India in a stable condition.

In 2006 Mr. Anjangi Kishore Kumar Student of Mechnikova Medical Academy was stabbed by an unknown person. Mr. Kumar survived after medical treatment. Mr. Nitesh Kumar Singh, Student of Mechnikova Medical Academy was stabbed to death by unknown persons. Mr. Mohammad Farooq Natheer Hussein, Student of Mechnikova Medical Academy was attacked by unknown person resulting in bodily injuries.

15. **Slovak Republic** : In July, 2006 an Indian student was allegedly beaten up by a group of young people, apparently on racial grounds.

16. **Uganda** : There were incidents of attacks on Indian nationals during rioting in Kampala on 12 April 07. One Indian national, Shri Devangkumar Shaileshkumar Raval was killed during the incident. On 15 May 07, in Arua town, an Indian national, Shri Mahesh Reddy was attacked in connection with a land dispute.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 740
To be answered on 21st November, 2007

AMENDMENT IN THE EMIGRATION ACT

740. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to amend the Emigration Act to protect the interests of 50-lakh overseas Indian workers;
- (b) if so, the details of the amendments that have been finalized;
- (c) whether the government has set up a "Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment" in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, the Government is proposing to amend the Emigration Act, 1983. The details are being finalized.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir, the Government is considering to set up a "Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment" as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The details are being finalized.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1696
To be answered on 28th November, 2007

MINIMUM WAGES FOR MAIDS/NURSES IN OVERSEAS COUNTRIES

1696. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
(OIH)

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a huge demand in the overseas countries for Indian housemaids and home nurses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of housemaids and home nurses presently working, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with the foreign countries, especially with the Gulf countries to ensure minimum wages for the housemaids/home nurses;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) Yes Sir. Demand of Indian housemaids/home nurses is mostly in gulf countries.
- (b) As per data furnished by Indian Missions, the approximate number of Indian women employed as housemaids/home nurses in Gulf countries presently is as under:

Oman	Saudi Arabia	Bahrain	Qatar	Kuwait
31000	9000	15000	10000	72,366

In the UAE, only a moderate number of Indian women are employed as housemaids.

(c) to (e): The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries have presently no law to regulate wages for domestic workers. However, minimum wage for various host countries has been fixed by the Indian Missions and enforced by the Protectors of Emigrants while granting emigration clearance. In order to ensure the protection of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with the UAE and Kuwait. An additional protocol has been signed with Qatar. MoUs with Oman and Malaysia have been finalized.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2671
To be answered on 5th December, 2007

INTRODUCTION OF MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

2671. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce means-cum-merit scholarship for the wards of Indians living abroad for study in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) A Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) for wards of People of Indian Origin/Non-Resident Indians has been started since 2006. Selection of eligible students for the scholarship is based on a test conducted through Education Consultants India Ltd. Presently there is no means-cum-merit basis for the scholarship.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2684
To be answered on 5th December, 2007

NEW SCHEME FOR DESERTED INDIAN WOMEN

2684. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases sponsored under the New Scheme for Deserted Indian Women for giving legal/financial assurance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouse; and
- (b) the names of Indian Women's Association/NGO's empanelled with the Indian Missions under the Scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): The Indian Missions abroad have sponsored 13 cases under the scheme to provide legal / financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses.

(b) A list of Indian Women's Organizations/ Indian Community Associations and NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions / Posts abroad is annexed.

ANNEXURE

LIST OF INDIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS/ INDIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS /NGOS EMPANELLED WITH THE INDIAN MISSIONS/POSTS ABROAD TO PROVIDE LEGAL/ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN WOMEN DESERTED BY THEIR OVERSEAS SPOUSES .

Sr.No.	Indian Mission	Indian Women's Association /NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions
1	Embassy of India, Washington DC, USA	ASHA (Asian Women's Self –help Association) , Post Box 2084, Rockville, MD 20847-2084
2.	Consulate General of India, San Francisco, USA	(i) MAIRI, 234 , East Gish Road, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95112 (ii) NARIKA Post Box NO. 14014, Berkeley, CA 94714 (iii) SevA Legal Aid 37053 Cherry Street # 207 Newark, CA 94560
3.	Consulate General of India, New York, USA	(i) SAKHI, New York (ii) AWAKE, (Asian Women's Alliance for kinship and equality) (iii) MANAVI, New Jersey (iv) SERVICE AND EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE 9SEV) Philadelphia (v) INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUFFALO
4	Consulate General of India Chicago, USA	Apna Ghar INC (Our Home), Chicago
5	Embassy of India , Qatar	Indian Community Benevolent Fund (ICBF) , Doha, Qatar
6	High Commission of India, Canberra, Australia	The Indian Welfare & Resources Centre (IWRC), the Welfare wing of Federation of Indian Association of Victoria, Melbourne .
7	High Commission of India, Ottawa Canada	(i) Indian Canada Association 1301 Prestone Drive, Ottawa, ON K1E , 2Z2 (ii) Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization , 959 Wellington Street West, Ottawa, ON K1Y 2X5. (iii) National Association of Canadians of Indian Origin, 24 Saint-Paul East, Suite 201. Montreal , QC H2Y 1G3. (iv) AWIC Community & Social Services 3030 Don Mills Road, Peanut Plaza , Norht York, ON M2J 3C1.
8.	Indian Embassy, New Zealand	Shakti Community Council INC, Auckland

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LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2712
To be answered on 5th December, 2007

INDIAN WORKERS IN GULF COUNTRIES

2712. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated number of Indian workers illegally working in the foreign countries, particularly in the Gulf countries;
- (b) whether the passports and other documents of the workers of India are being seized by their employees;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether such workers have been/being deported by these countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to render necessary assistance and protect such workers from deportation/harassment?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): There are no official figures available with regard to the number off illegal Indians working in these countries.

(b) & (c): It is reported that in Gulf counties, the passport of the Indian workers are normally kept by their employers till the time the employment contract is competed. The Indian Missions have requested the local authorities from time to time for retention of the passports by the workers concerned and also for penalizing the employers retaining the passports of workers without their consent.

(d) & (e): Gulf countries deport foreign workers including Indians from time to time for violation of local laws, non-possession of valid visas/residence permits etc., as part of the normal law enforcement process. During the year 2007 (till October, the number of such workers deported/ECs issued are as under from Gulf countries:

Kuwait	Bahrain	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar
8234	1481	40088	28904	1086	2050

Contd....2/-

..2..

(f): The Indian Missions organize smooth issue of Emergency Certificates by making special drives involving the local Indian communities. The complaints of ill treatment, harassment, breach of contracts etc., received from the Indian workers are taken up by the Mission with the sponsors / employers, Labour Department and local police authorities for appropriate action.

To protect the various rights of the workers, the Ministry has also entered into bilateral labour agreements with the UAE and Kuwait. These MOUs provide for a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of both countries to meet periodically to discuss and resolve grievances of workers. An additional protocol has also been signed with Qatar recently. MOU with Malaysia and Oman has been initialed. Dialogue has been initiated for similar agreements with KSA and Bahrain.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2741
To be answered on 5th December, 2007

SUICIDES DEATHS AND INJURIES TO THE INDIAN NATIONALS ABROAD

2741. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the information relating to the accidents, deaths, injuries and suicides involving Indian workers working abroad has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last three years including current year; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2759
To be answered on 5th December, 2007

INTRODUCTION OF E-EMIGRATION FACILITY

2759. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the people are facing a lot of difficulties due to lack of modern facilities in the emigration offices in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to introduce e-emigration to make the clearance process faster and easier;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to come into effect; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c): To bring in greater transparency, efficiency and accountability in the emigration process, the Ministry has undertaken comprehensive computerization of all the 8 offices of Protector of Emigrants (POE). The on-line emigration processing has already started in 6 POE offices at Delhi, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai and Kolkata. The computerization in the remaining 2 offices at Kochi and Chennai is underway.

(d) Does not arise.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2859
To be answered on 5th December, 2007

INDIANS DETAINED IN UAE

2859. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether hundreds of Indians were detained in UAE due to some labour problems recently and are waiting to return to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of India has taken up the issue with the Government of UAE for their rescue; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d): As per reports received from the CGI, Dubai, two instances occurred recently in Dubai, where workers, with majority of them being Indians, went on strike against their employers, in demand of increase of their wages etc. In first case, 4300 workers of M/s. Pauling Middle East Company went on strike on 28.10.2007 and were detained by police authorities. Out of these 4141 workers have been released and rejoined work. The remaining 159 workers, including 90 Indians, detained for indulging in violence by the local authorities, have since been deported. The Indian Mission officials were in constant touch with the UAE authorities for the release/return of the Indian workers.

In the 2nd case about 35000 workers of M/s. Arabtec Construction Company went on strike from 1.11.2007, most of whom have resumed work after the company announced increase in salary. Around 500 workers from various nationalities, including 230 Indians, who tried to stop others from going to work, were arrested. All the detained workers have been sent back to their respective countries. The Indian Mission in the UAE have taken up the issues of reasonable minimum wages and comprehensive medical insurance of Indian workers with the Government of UAE.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2879
To be answered on 5th December, 2007

DEMAND OF INDIAN WORKERS ABROAD

2879. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:
(OIH)

Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some foreign countries have shown interest in calling labourers from India for their manufacturing industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a), (b) & (c) The Ministry was approached by the Government of Poland for developing a framework to facilitate migration of Indian workers for contractual employment in construction, road-building and agriculture. MOIA welcomed the initiative to expand the overseas employment market for Indian workers and to evolve a model for bilateral cooperation for managed legal migration of workers. A draft MOU was sent to the Polish Government with a request for negotiation. The response of the Polish Government is awaited.
