

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 22
To be answered on 15th November, 2007

PLIGHT OF INDIAN WORKERS ABROAD

22. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that thousands of Indian and other immigrant workers had protested against their employers for low wages, forced labour and torture by their employers;
- (b) Whether many of them were arrested and put on wrongful confinement and were not provided any legal aid;
- (c) whether our embassy in Dubai talked to the concerned authorities about the plight of Indian workers; and
- (d) if not, the reasons thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) Yes, Sir. About 4300 workers of Pauling Middle East Company on 28.10.07 and about 35000 workers of Arabtec Construction Company in UAE had gone on strike from 1.11.07 demanding increase in salary etc.
- (b) to (d) In case of M/s Pauling Middle East Company out of 4300 workers detained by police authorities, 4141 workers have been released and rejoined work. There were about 90 Indians detained for investigation for violence out of which 87 were sent back to India. 3 Indians are still under detention and are awaiting the final decision of UAE authorities. Consulate officials are in touch with UAE authorities for their release and return to India. In the case of M/s Arabtec Construction Company, most of the workers resumed work after the company announced an increase in salary on 10.11.07. Around 500 workers from various nationalities who tried to stop others from going to work were arrested. The Consulate officials are providing all possible assistance to these workers.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 23
To be answered on 15th November, 2007

INDIANS WORKING IN DUBAI

23. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK

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

- (a) whether a number of Indians working in Dubai were arrested by the Dubai Authorities;
- (b) whether Government had approached the Dubai authorities in this regard;
- (c) the stand taken by Government in this regard;
- (d) the response of the Dubai authorities; and
- (e) the details of the decisions taken by the Dubai authorities regarding the arrested Indians?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Initially, around 4300 workers of M/s Pauling Middle East Company, Dubai, who had gone on protest against the company demanding higher salary etc., of whom a large numbers were Indians, had been detained. After the intervention of the Indian Embassy, 4141 workers were released. Only, 159 workers, who had actually participated in the violence were detained, out of them 90 were Indians.
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Embassy of India and Consulate General of India remain in close touch with workers and raise with local authorities the problems faced by Indian workers.
- (d) Government of UAE directed the Ministry of Labour to analyse the situation and come up with proposals to find solutions to the issues raised by the workers. They also warned companies violating the legal rights of workers and said that if found guilty they could be penalized.
- (e) The Dubai authorities decided to deport all workers who indulged in violence. Police authorities informed that 90 out of the 159 persons involved in the violence were Indians. Eighty seven of them have since been sent back to India.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *106
To be answered on 22nd November, 2007

INDIANS DEPORTED FROM ARABIAN COUNTRIES

*106. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether many Indian workers have been deported to India from some Arabian countries;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to ensure that Indian workers are not harassed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 106* for answer on 22.11.2007 regarding Indians Deported From Arabian Countries by Shri T. T. V. Dhinakaran

(a): Yes Sir, Some Arab countries from time to time deport foreign workers including Indians due to various reasons. During the year 2007, the number of such workers deported/ECs (Emergency Certificates) issued are as under from Gulf countries:

Year	Kuwait	Bahrain	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar
2007 (till Oct. 07)	8234	1481	40088	28904	1086	2050

(b): Such deportation normally are done on the grounds of non-possession of valid visas / resident permits, violation of local rules and regulations etc. Sometimes, amnesty is also declared for workers overstaying illegally and the overstayers are allowed to regularize their stay or leave the country during the notified period without penalty or punishment.

(c): (i) 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.

(ii) 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 initiated. Dialogue has been initiated for similar agreements with KSA and Bahrain.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *109
To be answered on 22nd November, 2007

INDIAN WORKERS IN MIDDLE-EAST

*109. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

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

- (a) whether there is any mechanism or supervisory body to ensure that the contracts between Indian workers in Middle-East countries and the contractors and employers are adhered to;
- (b) if so, the number of cases of violations that have been reported in the years 2006 and 2007 and the steps that have been taken to redress their grievances/breach of contracts; and
- (c) if not, the steps that are being taken to take care of growing number of cases being reported about breach of contracts, under-payment, ill-treatment like seizure of passport, etc. and poor working conditions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. S 109 for answer on 22.11.2007 by Shri Mohammed Amin and Shri Prasanta Chatterjee regarding Indian workers in Middle- East

(a): Yes, Sir. The Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) is the statutory authority designated under the Emigration Act, 1983 for the protection and welfare of emigrants.

The work contract between the employer and the worker set out the terms and conditions of employment, violation of which attracts the penal provisions of the Act. In the case of unskilled workers/ household service workers the work contract has to be duly attested by the Embassy of India. The Recruiting Agent is liable to ensure compliance of the terms and conditions of the contract on the part of the employer.

In the event of violation of the contractual provisions, action is taken against the recruiting agent by way of suspension/cancellation of the license and/or prosecution. The Foreign Employers (FEs) concerned are blacklisted.

In order to reinforce this regulatory system and to ensure that contractual obligations are adhered to by the employer and for the protection and welfare of the workers, the Ministry has signed bilateral agreements with major labour receiving countries. Such MOUs have been signed with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait. An Additional Protocol has been signed with Qatar. MOU has been finalised with Malaysia and Oman. These agreements provide for a Joint Working Group to look into and resolve the problems and concerns of Indian workers including adherence of the terms and conditions of work contracts by employers.

(b): The number of violations reported and action taken in the last two years are detailed below:

Complaints against Registered recruiting agents

year	No. of complaints	Show Cause issued	No. of Registration Certificates Suspended/ cancelled	No. of complaints dropped/resolved	Cases pending
2006	167	167	65	69	33*
2007	128 (* included)	122	34	37	57

Foreign Employers blacklisted

Year	Number of companies blacklisted
2006	26
2007	10

(c): Does not arise.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 482
To be answered on 22nd November, 2007

WOMEN DESERTED BY NRI SPOUSES

482. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR:

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

- (a) whether 15,000 young women have been abandoned and left to fend for themselves by their non-resident Indian (NRI) spouses;
- (b) whether it is a fact that neither the police nor the civil administration is showing any willingness to intervene; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) As on 31st October 2007, 200 complaints from Indian women abandoned by their NRI/PIO spouses have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

(b) & (c): Redressal of marital disputes are done in accordance with laws and regulations of the country concerned.

With a view to assist such women the Ministry has launched a scheme to provide legal and financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses through Indian Missions abroad. The Ministry has also launched a guidance booklet, information pamphlets in English, Hindi and regional languages to educate and sensitize prospective brides and their families regarding martial alliance with overseas Indians and through electronic media.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 483
To be answered on 22nd November, 2007

ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS INDIAN WOMEN

483. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing legal and financial assistance to women deserted or divorced by their overseas Indian or foreign spouses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of financial and legal assistance provided to women from the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the scheme is restricted only to limited countries like USA, UK, Canada, Australia, etc. and not extended to all other countries where Indians reside;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) by when the scheme is going to be made applicable to all the countries?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Ministry has launched a scheme in February 2007 to provide legal and financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses. A copy of the Scheme is attached in the annexure.

(c) The Ministry has received 18 complaints from women belonging to Andhra Pradesh who have been deserted by their overseas Indian spouses. Nine of these cases have been referred to concerned Indian Missions abroad and the rest to other authorities for appropriate action.

(d) to (f): The scheme was initially launched to cover cases from USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Gulf – having larger Indian population and larger number of cases of desertion/divorce. Extension of the scheme to other countries will be considered after evaluating the functioning of the scheme in the countries already covered.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 483 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2007**

SCHEME FOR GIVING LEGAL/ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN DESERTED BY THEIR OVERSEAS INDIAN SPOUSES.

I. Objective:

The objective of the scheme is to provide some financial assistance to needy women in distress who have been deserted by their overseas Indian spouses for obtaining counseling and legal services. The term "Overseas Indian" would include NRIs and foreign citizens of Indian origin. The counseling and legal services would be provided through credible Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs identified for providing such services and empanelled with the Indian Missions in the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Gulf. The scheme is a welfare measure to support women of Indian origin in distress, through the mobilization of the local Indian community in the endeavour and with some financial assistance from the Government.

II. Scope of and Eligibility for the Scheme:

The scheme would be available to the women who have been deserted by their overseas Indian spouses or are facing divorce proceedings in a foreign country subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The woman is an Indian passport holder.
- (ii) **The marriage of the woman has been solemnized in India.**
- (iii) **The woman is deserted in India or after reaching abroad within five years of the marriage.**
- (iv) Divorce proceedings are initiated **within five years of the marriage** by her overseas Indian spouse.
- (v) An ex-parte divorce has been obtained by the overseas Indian spouse **within ten years of the marriage** and a case for maintenance and alimony is to be filed.
- (vi) The scheme would not be available to a woman facing criminal charges or having a criminal case decided against her.
- (vii) The domicile of the woman seeking relief under the scheme is not relevant for allowing the benefit. The woman may be domiciled in the country of her overseas Indian spouse or in India at the time of making the application.
- (viii) Preference may be given to applicants on the basis of financial needs.
- (ix) Assistance will be limited to meeting initial cost and incidental charges for documentation and filing of the case by the Indian women's organization/NGO on the woman's behalf.
- (x) The assistance will be limited to US \$1000 per case and will be released to the Indian community organizations/NGO concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.
- (xi) The women's organization/NGO will make efforts to enlist community advocates, preferably women advocates, to extend further legal assistance/ appearance in court etc on a pro-bono basis.

Contd...2/-

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Pattern of Assistance

Under the scheme Indian Missions in the countries concerned would empanel credible Indian Women's Organizations/ Indian Community Associations/NGOs and their member advocates, preferably women, to provide legal aid to the victims in distress and whose names have been approved by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The applications for providing legal aid received by the Missions would be examined by an officer designated by the Head of the Mission on case-to-case basis and approved by Head of Mission/Deputy Chief of the Mission.

The applications received in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will be examined by an internal committee consisting of a legal advisor and an officer of the rank of Director/Deputy Secretary and approved by Secretary. Thereafter, the Ministry will recommend the case to Mission concerned to provide legal aid support. The applicant would also be informed to approach the Mission concerned in this regard.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 484
To be answered on 22nd November, 2007

ATTACK ON TEMPLE IN TRINIDAD

484. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

- (a) whether a temple was attacked in Trinidad which is linked to the memory of arrival of the Indian there;
- (b) whether he had also seen that temple during his stay there; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Waterloo temple was vandalized in the night of August 3-4, 2007 by unknown persons.
- (b) Yes, Sir, on 30th May, 2007 during my visit to that country.
- (c) The Mission has taken up the matter with concerned authorities as a result of which the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has intensified police patrolling in the area to avoid repetition of the incident. The temple has been fully refurbished through donations and the temple management is awaiting murtis from India.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 485
To be answered on 22nd November, 2007

INDIAN RETURNING FROM ABROAD

485. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government are taking steps to get back the persons who have been instructed by their respective countries to go to India;
- (b) if so, the details of such persons whom Government have helped to get them back to India during the last three years, State-wise, especially the people from Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether Government have given jobs to such persons in Andhra Pradesh through Job Mela;
- (d) if so, the beneficiaries from such Mela in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the steps Government are taking to help them in all possible ways?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

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

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 486
To be answered on 22nd November, 2007

ADDRESS BY UPA CHAIRPERSON IN UN

486. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
(OIH) SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

- (a) whether the address by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on Mahatama Gandhi's Birthday on 2nd October in the United Nations was opposed by the Indian-Americans;
- (b) whether her eligibility was questioned by them; and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereupon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c): Details are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1094
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

HUMAN RIGHTS OF PIOs

1094. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

- (a) whether any discussions have recently taken place for the protection of the human rights of the people of Indian origin;
- (b) whether international treaties are obstacles in this regard;
- (c) whether discussions have been held to bring this matter under the purview of Human Rights Commission of India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d): India is a party to the core international conventions on human rights namely – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000. These conventions/treaties facilitate the protection of Human rights of Indians, that includes PIOs and are in no way an obstacle/impediment.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1095
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

ILL-TREATMENT OF WOMEN EMPLOYEES IN GULF COUNTRIES

1095. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

- (a) whether there are complaints of ill-treatment of women employees and refusal of timely payment of wages, cancellation of work permit/visa to Indian citizens working in Gulf countries;
- (b) if so, the number of such complaints, category-wise as on today;
- (c) whether the agencies associated with recruitment to Gulf countries have to register themselves;
- (d) if so, the details of the agencies registered and recruitment done by these agencies during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise, gender-wise and State-wise; and
- (e) the details of action taken to protect rights to employees especially women employees working in Gulf countries?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a). Yes, Sir. Complaints are received in the Ministry and the Indian Missions in the Gulf from time to time regarding ill-treatment, payment of less salary, and exploitation in other forms etc. of Indian workers including women workers in Gulf countries.

(b) The complaints received during 2007 from workers in the Gulf including women workers is at Annexure-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of recruiting agents registered under the Emigration Act, 1983 and having valid registration certificates as on 31.10.2007 is at Annexure-II. The year-wise and state-wise outflow of workers in 2004, 2005 and 2006 is at Annexure-III. The category-wise and gender-wise outflow of workers in 2004, 2005 and 2006 is at Annexure- IV.

(e) For protection and welfare of emigrants, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has signed MOUs with United Arab Emirates(UAE) and Kuwait. An Additional Protocol with Qatar to update the 1985 Agreement has also been signed. MOUs with Malaysia and Oman have been finalised.

For protection and welfare of women workers, instructions have been issued to the effect that women below the age of 30 (thirty) years would not be granted emigration clearance if they are seeking employment as housemaids/domestic workers in any foreign country. It has been made mandatory that the work contracts of women household service workers duly attested by the Indian Missions before they are given emigration clearance. Instructions have also been issued to Heads of Indian Missions in the Gulf countries for providing a 24/7 helpline service for women emigrants, organising quarterly open house meetings for the benefit of Household Service Workers (HSWs) for hearing their problems and providing them counselling services. The Indian Missions in the Gulf have also been asked to notify a minimum wage for women household service workers.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1095 FOR ANSWER ON 29.11.2007**

ANNEXURE-I

(A) COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN THE MINISTRY FROM INDIAN MISSIONS/WORKERS FROM GULF COUNTRIES

Nature of complaints	Number of Complaints in 2007
Cheating/Forgery (illegal recruitment/sending for work on visit visa/forged/fake documents/overcharging)	16 (woman related-1)
Job related (non providing of job/ change of nature of job/change of destination)	5 (woman related-2)
Salary related (non payment of salary/less salary)	8
Ill-treatment (ill treatment/harassment/residence visa problem/repatriation)	13
	42

(B) COMPLAINTS RELATING TO FEMALE WORKERS RECEIVED BY INDIAN MISSIONS IN THE GULF

Name of Indian Mission	Year (2007)
UAE	514
Bahrain	143
Saudi Arabia	128
Qatar	206
Kuwait	764
Oman	110

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1095 FOR ANSWER ON 29.11.2007**

ANNEXURE-II

**NUMBER OF REGISTERED RECRUITING AGENTS UNDER THE
EMIGRATION ACT,1983 AS ON 31-10-2007, STATE-WISE**

S.N.	State/UT	Number of registered recruiting agents
1	Andhra Pradesh	82
2	Chandigarh	46
3	Delhi	322
4	Goa	22
5	Gujarat	19
6	Haryana	12
7	Himachal Pradesh	1
8	Jammu & Kashmir	3
9	Karnataka	33
10	Kerala	231
11	Madhya Pradesh	2
12	Maharashtra	693
13	Mizoram	2
14	Orissa	1
15	Pondicherry	1
16	Punjab	92
17	Rajasthan	43
18	Tamilnadu	223
19	Uttar Pradesh	12
20	Uttaranchal	1
21	West Bengal	10
	TOTAL	1851

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1095 FOR ANSWER ON 29.11.2007**

ANNEXURE-III

OUTFLOW OF WORKERS STATE-WISE DURING THE YEARS 2004-2006

SN	State	2004	2005	2006
1.	Kerala	63,512	1,25,075	1,20,083
2.	Tamil Nadu	1,08,964	1,17,050	1,55,631
3.	Karnataka	19,237	75,384	24,362
4.	Gujarat	22,218	49,923	13,274
5.	Andhra Pradesh	72,580	48,498	97,680
6.	Maharashtra	28,670	29,289	15,356
7.	Punjab	25,302	24,088	39,311
8.	Uttar Pradesh	27,428	22,558	66,131
9.	Rajasthan	35,108	21,899	50,236
10.	Bihar	21,812	9,366	36,493
11.	Delhi	6,052	6,024	9098
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8,888	5,312	7047
13.	West Bengal	8,986	5,102	14,929
14.	Haryana	1,267	2,313	193
15.	Goa	7,053	1,627	4,063
16.	Orissa	6,999	1,258	4,114
17.	Jharkhand	919	974	1,427
18.	Chandigarh	2,405	807	6,616
19.	Himachal Pradesh	1,506	762	1,180
20.	Assam	2,695	669	1,075
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,944	486	1,661
22.	Pondichery	560	222	2
23.	Uttaranchal	58	137	93
24.	Andaman & Nicobar	29	5	190
25.	Tripura	2	1	1
26.	Chhattisgarh	580	0	4735
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	73	0	0
28.	Nagaland	46	0	0
29.	Mizoram	38	0	0
30.	Manipur	29	0	0
31.	Sikkim	0	0	10
32.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
33.	DNH/UT	0	0	11
34.	Port Blair	0	0	1
35.	Others	0	24	1909
	Total	4,74,960	5,48,853	6,76,912

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1095 FOR ANSWER ON 29.11.2007**

ANNEXURE-IV

**OUTFLOW OF WORKERS
-SKILLED/UNSKILLED AND MALE /FEMALE
in 2004,2005 AND 2006**

YEAR	SKILLED	UNSKILLED	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
2004	4,63,502	11,458	4,74,960	4,71,066	3894
2005	5,28,122	20,731	5,48,853	5,34,523	14,330
2006	6,51,893	25,019	6,76,912	6,64,256	12,656

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1096
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS

1096. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) whether there is any international covenant or International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines protecting the rights of immigrant workers against exploitation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has ascertained the facts regarding the protest by Indian workers in Dubai against their working conditions; and
- (d) whether our Mission in UAE has ascertained the working conditions of Indian workers and has taken up the issue with local Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The International Labour Organisation in its 60th session in 1975 adopted the "Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975, concerning migrations in abusive conditions and promoting equality of opportunity and treatment of migrants. Other relevant ILO conventions and recommendations on the subject are Migration for Employment Convention and Recommendation (Revised) 1949; Protection of Migrant Workers (Underdeveloped countries) Recommendation, 1955; Employment Policy Convention and Recommendation, 1964; Employment Service Convention and Recommendation, 1948; Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised), 1949 and the Migrant Workers Recommendation, 1975. These deal with matters such as regulation of the recruitment of migrant workers, introduction and placing of the migrant workers, provision of accurate information relating to migration, minimum conditions to be enjoyed by migrants in transit and on arrival, adoption of an active employment policy and international collaboration in these matters.

The conventions were to be binding only upon those Members States whose ratifications have been registered with the ILO. However, the Government of India have not ratified these conventions.

(c) Yes, Sir, there were recently two instances in Dubai, where workers, with majority of them being Indians, went on strike against their employers in demand of increase in their wages etc. In one case relating to M/s. Pauling Middle East Company, almost all the workers have rejoined work on assurance by the employer of not penalizing them in any manner. The workers guilty of violence (including Indians) have already been deported to their countries. In 2nd case of M/s. Arabtec Construction Company, most of the workers resumed work after the company announced increase in salary.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Mission officials are in constant touch with the local Government with regard to the issues of salary of workers, penalizing the employer for violating workers' rights and regular inspections of the labour camps to check the living conditions of the workers etc.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1097
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

KIDNAPPING OF INDIAN WORKERS IN NIGERIA

1097. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that recently three Indian petrochemical workers were kidnapped from Nigeria's oil capital Port Harcourt by suspected militants;
- (b) if so, the reasons of their kidnap and whether they have been traced, so far;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to rescue those Indians from the clutches of militants; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): Yes, Sir. 12 Indian nationals were kidnapped by militants in 2 separate incidents on May 19 and June 1, 2007 in Port Harcourt.

(b): The reason of the kidnapping is the prevalent militancy in the Niger Delta region where militants kidnap expats and Nigerians alike.

(c)&(d): The Mission in collaboration with the local Government and security agencies made extensive efforts to secure the safe release of the Indians kidnapped. They were eventually released on June 11 and June 15, 2007.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1098
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

INDIANS IN JAILS OF GULF COUNTRIES

1098. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals are languishing in Jails in Gulf countries who are victims of recruitment agencies in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of cases reported;
- (c) the details of the steps taken for the release of these people; and
- (d) the details of steps taken against the fraudulent agencies and to ensure the safety of the emigrants?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1099
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

DELEGATION TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

1099. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

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

- (a) whether delegations under the leadership of the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited European countries;
- (b) if so, the details of the last such visit of the Minister to European nations;
- (c) the names and details of the members included in the delegation;
- (d) whether media persons were taken alongwith the delegation; and
- (e) if so, the details of the names of the journalists who accompanied the delegation alongwith the names of the organizations the journalists represent?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Official visits to Portugal, Ireland, Germany and Italy were undertaken from 01-09 February, 2007 to meet the overseas Indian community. A brief visit on 9th June, 2007 to UK was undertaken on way back after visiting some Caribbean countries.

(c): Shri T.Q. Mohammad, Deputy Secretary (FS) of the Ministry and Shri L. Ramachandran, APS accompanied me during the visit to Portugal, Ireland, Germany and Italy and Shri V.N. Ajayappan, PA, accompanied me on the UK visit.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1100
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

INDIAN WORKERS IN MIDDLE-EAST

1100. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has noted the crisis faced by lakhs of Indian workers in the Middle East who are facing deportation;
- (b) whether it is a fact that lakhs of Indian workers have been declared “illegal migrants”;
- (c) whether protector of emigrants has enquired into the sudden declaration of lakhs of workers as ‘illegal migrants’;
- (d) whether the issue has been taken up with the concerned Government in those countries; and
- (e) the status of the matter and solutions proposed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, Some Middle-East countries from time to time deport foreign workers including Indians due to various reasons. During the year 2007, the number of such workers deported/ECs (Emergency Certificates) issued are as under:

Year	Kuwait	Bahrain	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar
2007 (till Oct. 07)	8234	1481	40088	28904	1086	2050

Such deportation normally are done for workers declared illegal migrants on the grounds of non-possession of valid visas / resident permits, violation of local laws etc.

(d)&(e): The Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularizing the stay of the Indian workers or organize smooth issue of Emergency Certificates for their deportation to India. Further, the complaints of ill treatment, harassment, breach of contracts etc., received from the Indian workers are also taken up by the Mission with the sponsors / employers, Labour Department and local police authorities for appropriate action.

In order to ensure the protection of rights 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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1101
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

PROGRAMME FOR EMIGRANT WORKERS

1101. SHRI C. PERUMAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has proposed to expand the pre-departure orientation and skill upgradation programme for emigrant workers to all State during this current year;
- (b) if so, the financial allocation of the Central Government to the State Governments and expected number of beneficiaries, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons for not expanding this programme to all States; and
- (d) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The proposed scheme envisages training of 1.60 lakhs potential emigrants at the per capita cost of Rs. 5000/- over a period of five years (2007-2012). The allocation to the state governments will depend upon the proposals submitted by them in each financial year, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.00 crore per annum per State Government.
- (c) & (d): Does not arise.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1102
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

COMPLAINTS AGAINST RECRUITING AGENCIES

1102. SHRI C. PERUMAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many complaints against recruiting agencies for overseas job opportunities received during the last year by Government are still pending and still no action has been taken on these complaints; and
- (b) if so, the details of the complaints and the reasons for the delay in taking action on these complaints?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Out of the 167 complaints received against the recruiting agencies during 2006, only 8 complaints are pending for final action. These cases are pending for want of further information from the Indian Missions, non-response of the complainants and pending court cases filed by complainants.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1103
To be answered on 29th November, 2007

INDIAN HOUSEHOLD WORKERS ABROAD

1103. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning a slew of measures for the benefit of Indians working as household workers in foreign countries, including a fixed wage that would have to be paid to them by their employers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is also proposing to establish shelters for distressed women migrants and offering legal services to ensure effective access to justice; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): The following policy measures have been taken for the Indian household services workers in foreign countries:

- (i) Age restriction of 30 years has been applied to all women emigrants holding **ECR** passports;
- (ii) Compulsory attestation by Indian Missions of Employment Contract has been applied to all women emigrants with ECR passports;
- (iii) A Media campaign has been launched to educate potential women emigrants;
- (iv) Indian Missions in major receiving countries have been advised to establish Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) to serve as a one-stop service outlet for emigrant workers.
- (v) Regarding fixed wage for the Indian household workers abroad, minimum wages for various host countries have been fixed by the Indian Missions, which is enforced by the Protector of Emigrants while granting emigration clearance;

(c)&(d): The Indian Missions in major receiving countries have been asked to operate shelters for run-away female household service workers and to extend legal assistance to the Indian Emigrant workers.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *317
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

AGREEMENT WITH GULF COUNTRIES

*317. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to sign agreements with Gulf countries in order to protect Indian workers there; and
- (b) the salient features of the agreements and by when these are expected to be implemented?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *317 BY SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI FOR REPLY ON 6-12-2007 REGARDING AGREEMENT WITH GULF COUNTRIES.

To facilitate the mobilization and requirement of manpower in the Gulf countries and to ensure the protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers the Government of India has signed bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Government of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the State of Qatar and the Republic of India on the Regulation of the Employment of Indian Manpower signed in 1985.

The salient features of the MoUs signed with the UAE in December, 2006 are the following:

- (a) Facilitation of manpower recruitment and mutual sharing of information and experience;
- (b) Recruitment to be in conformity with the laws of both countries;
- (c) All categories of workers to have the protection of the UAE labour law and regulation;
- (d) Terms and conditions of employment contract to be in conformity with the work permit that the employer has obtained from the UAE Government;
- (e) All contracts to be authenticated by the UAE Labour Ministry;
- (f) The employer would have no authority to change the contract conditions;
- (g) A Joint Committee consisting of three members each from both countries to be responsible for the implementation of the MoU.

The salient features of the MoU signed with the State of Kuwait in April, 2007 are the following:

- (a) Facilitation of the recruitment of manpower between the two countries;
- (b) Prohibition on changing the terms and conditions of the contract of employment to the detriment of the workers;
- (c) Procedure for authentication of the employment contract;
- (d) Unequivocal responsibility on the employer regarding arranging work permit for the worker;

- (e) Protection and welfare of the workers not covered under the labour law of the State of Kuwait;
- (f) Constitution of a Joint Working Group.

The salient features of the Additional Protocol signed in November, 2007 with the State of Qatar are the following:

- (a) It enlarges the mandate of the Joint Committee and provides for a wide range of issues that can be reviewed by the Joint Committee for promotion of emigration from India to Qatar and protection/welfare of Indian workers;
- (b) It stipulates that the Joint Committee would meet twice a year alternately;
- (c) It stipulates that if the state of Qatar decides to repatriate Indian workers prematurely before the expiry of their contracted period, the Government of Qatar will ensure that before their repatriation full wages and other entitlements accruing to them under the contract of employment and the Labour laws of the State of Qatar are paid to them for the entire un-availed period of the contract;
- (d) there is specific provision for the welfare of Indian workers in the unorganized sector.
- (e) It provides for appropriate steps to be taken to curb practices detrimental to the welfare of the Indian workers working in or seeking work in the State of Qatar.

MoUs are being finalized with Malaysia and Oman. MoUs are also being pursued with Bahrain and Yemen. Further, to supplement the Agreement the Government of India had signed with the Government of Jordan in 1988, it is proposed to sign an Additional Protocol to the 1988 Agreement with Jordan addressing current issues.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1859
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

INDIAN MAIDS IN GULF COUNTRIES

1859. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

- (a) the approximate number of Indian maids working in Gulf countries at present;
- (b) whether Government is aware that a large number of such maids are being exploited in those countries; and
- (c) if so, the action Government has taken to safeguard the interest of those maids and the result thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): As per data furnished by Indian Missions, the approximate number of Indian women employed as housemaids in Gulf countries presently is as under:

Oman	Saudi Arabia	Bahrain	Qatar	Kuwait
31000	9000	15000	10000	72366

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

(b) & (c): The Indian Missions in the gulf countries receive complaints of ill-treatment, non-payment/delayed payment of salary, long hours of work etc. from housemaids from time to time.

The matter is promptly taken up with the local sponsors and authorities for redressal of complaints, providing of shelter, transportation and repatriation in cases where settlement cannot be reached. For protection and welfare of the women emigrants, no emigration clearance is granted to women below the age of 30 years to take up household jobs. Attestation of the employment documents by the Indian Missions has been made mandatory before grant of emigration clearance to the women emigrants.

To create awareness amongst potential emigrant workers on the risks of illegal emigration, the Ministry has launched a nationwide awareness and publicity campaign. In addition, to facilitate the grievance redressal of emigrant workers on a time bound basis, the Ministry is launching a helpline for emigrant workers.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1860
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

FIRST HINDU CONVENTION

1860. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the First Hindu Convention was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Clark;
- (b) whether Indian Ambassador/Officers of the Embassy were invited on the occasion; and
- (c) whether a discussion was held regarding contribution made by India and Hindu in the convention?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) Yes, sir. The New Zealand Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Helen Clark attended the Conference and addressed it.
- (b) Yes, sir.
- (c) Yes, sir.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1861
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

RETURN OF WORKERS FROM UAE

1861. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that thousand of Indian workers in United Arab Emirates (UAE) have returned to India;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the total number of labourers who have been asked to leave UAE; and
- (d) the reaction of Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a): Yes, sir.
- (b): The Government of the UAE had announced a general amnesty scheme for three months beginning from June, 3 to September 2, 2007 which was later extended upto November 2, 2007 for persons who were staying illegally in UAE either to leave the country without penalty or regularize their stay.
- (c): About 70,000 Indian expatriates who were staying illegally benefited from the amnesty and have either left the country or regularized their stay.
- (d): Gulf countries from time to time declare Amnesty for illegal residents who offer an opportunity to leave the country without facing any legal action. Once Amnesty is declared, the Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularizing the stay of the Indian workers or organizing smooth issue of Emergency Certificates for their deportation to India. This Ministry coordinates with the state government authorities, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation for ensuring their safe passage back to India.

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1863
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF PBD

1863. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

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

- (a) whether the next Annual Conference of the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) would focus on rural population and their development;
- (b) if so, whether the NRI's would be asked to take up partnerships in the rural projects like micro finance initiatives;
- (c) if so, the amount of investment that is expected to flow in and whether the agriculture and allied sectors would be benefited by such measures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d): The theme of PBD 2008 scheduled to be held in January 2008 is 'Engaging the Diaspora : The way forward'. The Conference will focus on the social development challenges facing India and the initiatives that overseas Indians can take in such diverse areas as health, education, empowerment of women and development in the States. The Conference includes several sessions aimed at leveraging the resources, knowledge and philanthropic propensities of the overseas Indian community in rural development and related areas. A plenary session on Diaspora Philanthropy: Empowerment of Rural Women to discuss modes of participation and institutional support required for the Indian Diaspora to participate in philanthropic projects including micro finance initiatives, especially in the field of empowerment of rural women will be one of the highlights of the PBD. The conference is expected to promote partnerships and new initiatives by overseas Indians.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1864
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

NRIs IN DUBAI

1864. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
(OIH)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Non-Resident Indians living in Dubai (UAE) have been asked to leave the country 30th September, 2007;
- (b) if so, the number of such NRIs and the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that out of these NRIs approximately 700 migrants from Rajasthan have been put into jails and are being tortured there;
- (d) if so, the steps taken for their repatriation and the details thereof; and
- (e) the action being taken to stop the unjust treatment being meted out with these Non-Resident Indians and the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a)&(b): No, sir. The Non-Resident Indians living in Dubai have not been asked to leave the country. However, the Government of the UAE had announced a general amnesty scheme for three months beginning from June, 3 to September 2, 2007 which was later extended upto November 2, 2007 calling upon all those persons who were staying illegally in UAE either to leave the country or amend their residential status if they wished to continue to work in the UAE. About 70,000 Indian expatriates who were staying illegally benefited from the amnesty and have either left the country or regularized their status with proper documents.

(c): No, sir.

(d): Question does not arise.

(e): Once Amnesty is declared the Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularizing the stay of the Indian workers or organize smooth issue of Emergency Certificates for their deportation to India. Further, the complaints of ill treatment, harassment, breach of contracts etc., received from the Indian workers are also taken up by the Mission with the sponsors / employers, Labour Department and local police authorities for appropriate action.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1865
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

WOMEN HARASSED BY SPOUSES

1865. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of complaints from women harassed by their spouses abroad have gone up since 2004;
- (b) if so, the number of complaints received since 2004, year-wise; and
- (c) the action that has been taken through Indian Mission abroad, diplomatic and political channels?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The number of complaints received in the Ministry in the last 3 years are as under:

2005	-	19
2006	-	65
2007 (till October)	-	116

(c): The Ministry has launched a scheme this year to provide legal and financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses. Under the Scheme, Missions based in countries having a large Indian Diaspora and comparatively more number of such complaints, have been authorized to empanel credible Indian Women's Organizations /Indian Community Associations /NGOs to provide legal assistance to such victims . Financial assistance up to a limit of US \$ 1,000 per case can be released to these Indian Women's Organizations /Indian Community Associations /NGOs to meet initial cost and incidental charges for documentation and filing of the cases by them on behalf of the eligible victims.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1866
To be answered on 6th December, 2007

INDIAN LABOURERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1866. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
(OIH)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of misbehaviour with Indian labourers working in foreign countries have substantially increased;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Indian labourers are forced to work at hazardous work places in difficult conditions with the connivance of touts and such cases are on the rise;
- (c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and
- (d) the number of Indian labourers died in foreign countries during last three years and the action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

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