

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 18.11.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**MISSING OF PUNJABI YOUTH IN ITALY AND LIBYA .**

988

Shri Avinash Rai Khanna

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that about 25 Punjabi youth are missing for the last two years while going to Italy from Libya;
- (b) if so, the steps Government is taking to locate these youth, the details and progress thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to give some financial relief to the families of these youth; and
- (d) the steps Government is taking, so that these incidents may not repeat in future?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): Embassy of India, Rome has reported that they had received a communication in February, 2010 from a former MP stating that “a group of about 20 persons from Punjab had gone to Tripoli in 2007 to work there, and they were in regular contact with their families for a year but thereafter nothing was heard from them. It was learnt that they were planning to go to Italy as illegal entrants. The latest information is stated to be that while attempting to enter into Italy through sea route they were detained in a small islands off the coast of Italy”. Embassy of India, Tripoli has reported that as per information available with them, as on date there are two Indian nationals in prison in Libya.

(b): The Indian Mission at Rome took up the matter with the local authorities who have not been able to provide any details.

(c): Presently no such proposal is under consideration.

(d): From time to time publicity campaigns are undertaken by this Ministry educating the prospective migrants that they must resort to legal means of migration and they should desist from falling into the hands of unauthorized agents who facilitate illegal migration.