

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1350
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022

HARASSMENT OF INDIANS WORKING ABROAD

1350. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the youth working abroad has to face harassment due to lack of information of the rules and regulations of that country or due to some other reasons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Indian Embassy to provide immediate assistance to them;
- (c) whether Government is aware that a large number of Indians are languishing in jails of various countries including the Gulf Countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) Given the large number of Indian youth who go abroad for work, the Government is aware that some of them may face such problems due to lack of familiarity with the rules and regulations of that country or due to some other reasons.

The well being and welfare of Indians abroad is among the top priorities for the Government of India. Indian Missions and Posts advise Indians living abroad to register themselves with their Consular and Community Welfare Sections. Missions and Posts also widely disseminate salient information on various issues, including information related to the host countries, through website, social media, etc. with a view to enhance the awareness of Indian nationals abroad.

To enhance the awareness of the Indians intending to work in Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries, Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship runs a programme called Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) programme. The aim of the PDOT programmes is to enhance the soft skills of our migrant workers in terms of culture, language, tradition, local rules and regulations of the destination country, to sensitize migrant workers about pathways to safe and legal migration and various government programmes for their welfare and protection such as Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana

(PBBY), eMigrate Portal, MADAD Portal, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSKs), 24x7 helpline at Indian Embassies and Consulates etc. As on 30th June, 2022, 1,15,056 workers have been trained. The first online Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Programme for migrant workers was launched in April 2021. At present there are 32 PDOT Centres imparting training across the country.

(c) & (d) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including under-trials, in foreign prisons at present is 7710. Country-wise list is given at Annexure - I. However, due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Even countries which share information do not generally provide detailed information about the foreigners imprisoned.

ANNEXURE I

Sl. No.	Country	Number of Indians in foreign jails
1	Albania	1
2	Angola	2
3	Argentina	1
4	Armenia	1
5	Australia	86
6	Austria	6
7	Azerbaijan	4
8	Bahrain	97
9	Bangladesh	59
10	Belarus	2
11	Belgium	7
12	Bhutan	67
13	Cambodia	4
14	Cameroon	1
15	Canada	23
16	Chile	1
17	China	195
18	Colombia	3
19	Congo	4
20	Côte d'Ivoire	5
21	Cuba	1
22	Cyprus	20
23	Denmark	4
24	Egypt	1
25	Ethiopia	1
26	Fiji	1
27	France	29
28	Georgia	11
29	Germany	93
30	Ghana	1
31	Greece	22
32	Guatemala	1
33	Indonesia	24
34	Iran	17
35	Iraq	3

36	Israel	4
37	Italy	233
38	Japan	6
39	Jordan	21
40	Kuwait	458
41	Kyrgyzstan	2
42	Laos	2
43	Lebanon	5
44	Madagascar	5
45	Malawi	1
46	Malaysia	235
47	Maldives	14
48	Mauritius	10
49	Mexico	1
50	Morocco	2
51	Mozambique	6
52	Myanmar	44
53	Nepal	1134
54	New Zealand	13
55	North Macedonia	3
56	Oman	55
57	Pakistan	585
58	Paraguay	1
59	Philippines	36
60	Poland	8
61	Portugal	10
62	Qatar	485
63	Republic of Korea	3
64	Romania	6
65	Russia	11
66	Rwanda	4
67	Saudi Arabia	1167
68	Senegal	4
69	Serbia	2
70	Singapore	75
71	Slovakia	1
72	South Africa	4
73	Spain	40

74	Sri Lanka	16
75	Sudan	1
76	Sweden	1
77	Tanzania	2
78	Thailand	14
79	Trinidad and Tobago	2
80	Uganda	3
81	United Arab Emirates	1535
82	United Kingdom	381
83	USA	258
84	Uzbekistan	1
85	Vietnam	1
86	Yemen	1

Total 7710
