GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.532
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

JOB LOSS FOR INDIANS DURING THE COVID -19 LOCKDOWN

532. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

SHRIMATI PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

(a) the number of Indian migrant workers who returned from foreign countries between June 2020 and December 2021, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted an assessment of job losses suffered by Indians abroad during the COVID-19 crisis;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether it plans to conduct such an exercise; and

(d) the details on the number of people who left India to work in Gulf countries, between June 2020 and December 2021, country-wise?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (d) The number of Indian migrant workers returning from the ECR countries between June 2020 to December 2021 as per records available in the eMigrate system is given below:

S.No.	**Country**	**Estimated No. of Indian workers**
1.	Afghanistan	1
2.	Bahrain	11,749
3.	Indonesia	7
4.	Iraq	342
5.	Jordan	2,243
6.	Kuwait	51,206
7.	Lebanon	210
8.	Malaysia	9,228
9.	Oman	46,003
10.	Qatar	32,361
11.	Saudi Arabia	1,18,064
12.	Sudan	1
13.	Thailand	18
14.	United Arab Emirates	1,52,126
	TOTAL	**4,23,559**

It was the Government's priority to ensure during the pandemic that its impact on Indian workers in terms of loss of employment was mitigated. To that end, the Ministry and all our Missions in the Gulf were continuously engaged with the Government of the Gulf nations to maintain the workers, ensure their welfare and facilitate financial payments due to them.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation facilitated the safe repatriation of citizens stranded abroad to India during the COVID-19 pandemic time through the Vande Bharat Missions (VBM). Additionally, the Government of India launched the Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support (SWADES) portal as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the MEA, aimed to create a database of returning citizens based on their skill sets and experience, who lost their jobs and were stuck overseas and have returned back to India through the VBM.

As per information received from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, all the stakeholders have been given access to the SWADES candidate database with uploading of details on the Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal for employer connect under different sectors.

While a large number of Indian workers particularly in the Gulf returned to India due to COVID-19, the economic recovery in that region and their increasing openness to travel from India has now seen a return by many of them. As per the eMigrate portal total 4,16,024 Emigration Clearance(EC) were issued for ECR countries during the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2022.

The number of people who left India to work in the 6 Gulf countries between June 2020 and December 2021 as per records available in the eMigrate system is given below:

S.No.	**Country**	**Estimated No. of Indian workers**
1.	Bahrain	8,158
2.	Kuwait	10,160
3.	Oman	21,340
4.	Qatar	51,496
5.	Saudi Arabia	36,451
6.	United Arab Emirates	13,567
	TOTAL	**1,41,172**

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