

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1024
ANSWERED ON- 15/12/2022

NBA ISSUE FACED BY INDIAN ENGINEERS WORKING IN KUWAIT

1024. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any agreement with Kuwait authorities to accept the Indian Engineers who graduated before 2012 i.e. before National Board of Accreditation (NBA) became operational, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government will withdraw the letter (File No. 13-15/2018/ICC, D.O. No. 13-15/2018-ICC dated 13.04.2018) submitted to the Minister of Higher Education, Kuwait by the Indian mission in Kuwait, which required that NBA is mandatory for Indian Engineers; and

(c) the status of the decision taken by the Joint Committee (MEA, NBA, UGC, AICTE and MHRD) held on 09th January 2020 for the accelerated implementation of the resolutions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) & (b) Government does not see any need for a separate agreement with Kuwait authorities for acceptance of Indian engineers who graduated before 2012, when the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) became functional. Government has been regularly taking up the issue of accreditation of degrees of Indian engineers in Kuwait with Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE), which is the body for accreditation of engineering degrees in Kuwait. This includes taking up issues related to acceptance of Indian engineering degrees from non-NBA colleges/courses.

The letter issued by Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education on April 13, 2018 also clarified that NBA started functioning from 2012 and qualification of engineers who acquired degrees prior to setting up of NBA may not be questioned at a later stage. Government has also constantly clarified to the Kuwaiti side that universities/technical institutions in India require University Grants Commission (UGC)/All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approval, as applicable. Accreditation, including National Board of Accreditation and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), is not mandatory. A comprehensive list of non-NBA premier institutes {top National Institutional Ranking Framework(NIRF) ranked technical institutes and NAAC approved technical institutes under the purview of AICTE} and 'Institutes of National Importance' in India has also been shared with Kuwaiti authorities. With the structured engagement of our Embassy in Kuwait with KSE over the past years, difficulties in accreditation faced by many Indian engineers have been successfully resolved.

(c) Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Education continue to work with NBA, UGC and AICTE to effectively pursue the issues related to accreditation of Indian engineers in Kuwait. NBA is working with non-accredited Indian Institutes whose Engineers/professionals are working in Kuwait for their faster accreditation. These Institutes are pursued to apply for accreditation of their programs and their applications for accreditation are processed by NBA on priority basis.
