

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1831
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 22/12/2022

LABOURERS WORKING IN QATAR

1831. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has set up with Qatar a Joint Working Group on Labour and Manpower Development to address the plight and exploitation of migrant labourers working in Qatar;
- (b) whether the Group has not met after December 2020;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) if not, the details of the working of the Group; and
- (e) details of Government actions in addressing the plight and exploitation of migrant labourers working in Qatar as highlighted by news and research reports?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) to (d) The seventh meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Labour and Manpower Development between India and Qatar was last held on 4-5 May 2022 in New Delhi. Both sides held fruitful and productive discussions on a wide range of issues related to labour and manpower mobility. Both sides discussed ways to adopt integrated approach to promote the welfare and well-being of workers, including streamlining recruitment and to enhance co-operation for time-bound resolution of issues of mutual concern.

(e) The Embassy of India in Qatar has a full fledged Labour Wing which receives all kinds of grievances, including related to employment contract, unpaid wages, challenges at work place, confiscation of passport, need for exit permits, no objection for change of jobs etc. Whenever any complaint is received, the Embassy takes up the matter immediately with relevant authorities. Embassy also assists the migrant worker to register complaint and follow it up with the local authorities in the Government of Qatar, in particular the Ministry of Labour, the National Human Rights Committee and the Ministry of Interior for resolution. The Embassy also works with the Appellate Body set up in the Ministry of Interior, for redressal of grievances relating to delays in securing exit permits for expatriate workers. Mission also arranges one-way air tickets for repatriation, medical treatment, initial legal

assistance, to the needy Indian nationals, using the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), in deserving cases on means tested basis. In addition, all Labour related issues are also regularly discussed at the meetings of the India-Qatar Joint Working Group (JWG) on Labour & Manpower Development and other relevant bilateral fora. In addition to the above, the Embassy also holds Open House where any Indian national can come and meet senior officers, including the Ambassador, to register complaints for redressal of their grievance. The Embassy has also put in place arrangements to swiftly respond to emergency cases of Indian nationals on a 24x7 basis. The coordinates (Tel, Fax and Email) of Ambassador and all other officers and Sections are prominently displayed on Mission's website. The Mission also works closely with Indian Community organizations to expand its reach to a larger section of the Indian migrant workers in Qatar.
