

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1837**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 22/12/2022

**EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN GULF COUNTRIES**

1837. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government plans to initiate a conversation with Governments in the Gulf on improving oversight in contract enforcement and labour welfare;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any schemes exist currently to safeguard the interests of the Indian migrant workers from the exploitation by employers in the Gulf countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) & (b) The Government of India has signed Labour and Manpower Cooperation Agreements with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, like Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Jordan, that provide overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower issues. In addition, these MoUs and Agreements have provision of implementation through a Joint Working Group where updates in terms of requirements, technology, and skills are factored in during the regular meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs). Further, to safeguard the specific interest of domestic workers of the GCC countries, who are often in the most vulnerable category, the Ministry has signed separate MoUs and Agreements on domestic workers with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait.

(c) & (d) The Government has established a robust institutional framework to promote safe and legal migration while ensuring welfare and safety and preventing exploitation of Indian workers working abroad. Government has been making constant efforts to educate migrant youths about the perils of illegal recruitment channels. Following the implementation of the e-Migrate system in 2015, and with the welfare of aspiring emigrant youths in mind, ECR emigrants are recommended to seek overseas employment through legal channels, through the e-Migrate portal. The Ministry is also working with several state governments and other stakeholders to disseminate information about the Indian diaspora and foreign jobs

and to spread awareness about safe and legal migration through State Outreach Programmes. The state governments were requested to launch awareness campaigns for prospective emigrants in vernacular medium and to pro-actively check the growth of illegal agents and to take strict actions against them. A campaign titled 'Surakshit Jaaye Prasikshit Jaaye' (Go Safe, Go Trained) was launched in 2018 to raise awareness and facilitate safe and legal migration.

Pre Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) is another initiative in the same direction. PDOT programmes are aimed at enhancing soft skills of Indian migrant workers largely going to the Gulf region and Malaysia, in terms of culture, language, tradition and 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. The initiative has been successful.

MADAD portal, Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras, Helplines at Indian Missions and Posts, Shelter Homes etc. are some other important mechanisms to expeditiously assist Indian workers abroad. Missions in Gulf Countries also have dedicated labour wings which ensure prompt redressal of labour grievances. As and when Missions / Posts receive any labour grievance, they take it up with relevant authorities in the host government for appropriate intervention to its logical conclusion.

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