

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2005**  
ANSWERED ON- 08/08/2024

**CASES OF INDIANS BEING LURED ABROAD**

2005. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR

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

- (a) whether numerous Indian citizens are lured abroad on false promises, detained against their will and forced into undesirable activities;
- (b) whether Indians detained in Cambodia and South-East Asian countries are forced to perform cybercrimes;
- (c) number of Indians died fighting unwillingly for Russians after being lured abroad and how many are expected to return home;
- (d) reasons for not having proper checks on Indians being easily lured abroad with false promises and then forced to perform dangerous or criminal or inhuman tasks; and
- (e) Government's plan to check this growing menace?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Some cases have come to the notice of the Ministry where Indian nationals are lured abroad on false promises and being exploited for illegal activities including online cheating.

(b) Instances have come to notice of Indian nationals being lured by fake job offers to Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos, and made to carry out cyber crime and other illegal activities. Some of the Indians/their family members have approached Government of India seeking help for their repatriation to India. Government has taken expeditious action in this regard through the Embassies as also through political level dialogue.

(c) The Government has received requests for facilitation of early discharge of some Indian nationals purportedly recruited into the Russian armed forces in unclear circumstances. The exact number of such Indian nationals is not known. Information available currently, indicates that 13 Indian nationals have already left the Russian armed forces while another 66 individuals are seeking early discharge. Eight deaths have been reported where the citizenship of the deceased has been verified as Indian.

Financial support has been provided by the Government for transportation of mortal remains of four Indian nationals to India and it remains available for other cases when required. In addition, the Government of the Russian Federation has informed that compensation will be provided to the families of deceased individuals in accordance with the contracts signed by them.

The early discharge of Indian nationals in Russian armed forces, as well as their safety and well-being, has been taken up strongly by the Government with relevant authorities of Russia at various levels. During his recent visit to Russia in July 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi strongly reiterated the urgent need for early release of all Indian nationals from the Russian armed forces. MEA has also

urged all Indian nationals to exercise due caution while seeking employment opportunities in Russia and stay away from this conflict.

(d & e) The Government accords highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals proceeding for employment abroad. As per the Emigration Act 1983, no person/agency can function as Recruiting Agent without a valid Registration Certificate (RC) issued by the registering authority. For grant of RC to any person/agency, the application has to be made in prescribed format and provide details such as financial soundness, trustworthiness and premises from where the applicant intends to carry out the business.

Ministry keeps issuing advisories, media briefings and tweets about fake job rackets from time to time. Such communications are also issued by concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad through their websites, social media handles and the print media. Whenever any case of Indian national trapped in any foreign country comes to the notice of the Ministry, it takes pro-active measure through Missions/Posts abroad to rescue such person. Missions/Posts also take up these issues with the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned Government agencies of the host countries like Immigration, Labour Department, Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs and law enforcement agencies etc., for prompt redressal.

As and when complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are received, such matters are referred to the State police for investigation and prosecution. Information about illegal agents is also uploaded and updated on regular basis on the e-Migrate Portal. Till June 2024, a total of 3,042 illegal agents have been notified on the portal.

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