

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1183**  
ANSWERED ON- 05/12/2024

**DUNKI ROUTE**

1183. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of increasing instances of illegal migration through the "Dunki route" from Punjab and other States;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to curb such activities and ensure cooperation with international authorities, particularly with the United States;
- (c) whether Government has implemented targeted awareness programmes in Punjab to discourage residents from resorting to illegal migration;
- (d) the details of bilateral agreements signed with destination countries to manage this issue effectively; and
- (e) whether any special task forces or investigations have been initiated in Punjab to tackle human trafficking and migration fraud?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Ministry maintains the data in respect of Indian workers, holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports, proceeding for overseas employment through e-Migrate portal to any of the 18 notified ECR category countries.

It has come to the notice of the Government instances of dubious firms involved in fake recruitment job offers having lured Indian nationals from Punjab and others states mostly through social media channels for overseas employment to various countries including United States. Ministry comes to know about fraudulent activities of illegal/unscrupulous recruitment agents/agencies in the country as and when a complaint is filed by aggrieved emigrants or their relatives/friends/family members, who have been cheated by their employers, as these Indian nationals proceed abroad on their own volition through fraudulent/unscrupulous recruitment agents/agencies and through illegal channels.

(b & c) Government accords utmost priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals proceeding for employment abroad. To promote legal migration abroad the Government has taken up the matter with the foreign Governments and has also ratified the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNCTOC). As part of India-US cooperation on migration and mobility, both sides are engaged in a process to deter illegal migration including human smuggling and create more avenues for legal migration from India to the US.

Ministry issues advisories through eMigrate portal, social media handles and other modes of publicity about the perils of fake job rackets and ways to prevent the same. Till October 2024, a total of 3,094

unregistered agents in country, including from Punjab, have been notified on the eMigrate portal. The awareness campaign on safe and legal migration through eMigrate portal is carried out by the Ministry across the country from time to time by conducting workshops, trainings, information sessions, and digital campaigns for media groups, police officials and law enforcement agencies, local administration, aspiring recruiting agents, entrepreneurs and general public. During these sessions awareness on emigration regulations, schemes beneficial for emigrants like Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT), eMigrate portal and various advisories issued by Indian Embassies are brought to the notice of all stakeholders.

(d) To ease the emigration process and facilitate the employment of Indian workers abroad, the Ministry has entered into several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs) and Labour Manpower Agreements (LMAs) with the governments of various countries as per the details enclosed as Annexure A.

(e) As and when complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are received, such matters are referred to the State Police for investigation and prosecution under the relevant legal provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and other legislation in place including that enacted by the Punjab Government like Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, 2012. In the cyber domain, action is also taken against illegal recruiting agents in association with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and State Police authorities. Requests to take down social media posts of illegal recruiting agencies from all over India including Punjab have been regularly shared with MHA and in a recent joint operation of Ministry with Punjab Police, 38 FIRs have been registered against the illegal recruiting agencies based in Punjab.

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**(i) List of Migration and Mobility Agreements signed with other countries:**

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Name of MOU/Agreement
1.	France	Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement.
2.	United Kingdom	MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership.
3.	Germany	Agreement on Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership.
4.	Austria	Agreement on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership.
5.	Australia	Arrangement on Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership.
6.	Italy	Agreement on Migration and Mobility.
7.	Denmark	Agreement on Mobility and Migration Partnership.

**(ii) List of Labour Welfare Agreements signed with other countries:**

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Name of MOU/Agreement
1.	Bahrain	MoU on Labour and Manpower Development.
2.	Kuwait	MoU on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development. MoU on cooperation on the Recruitment of Domestic Workers.
3.	Oman	MoU in the field of Manpower.
4.	Qatar	MoU on Regulation of the Employment of Indian Manpower.
5.	Saudi Arabia	1. Agreement on Labour Cooperation for Domestic Service Workers Recruitment. 2. Agreement on Labour Cooperation for General Category Workers' Recruitment.
6.	UAE	MOU on cooperation in the field of Manpower.
7.	Jordan	MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Manpower.

**(iii) List of Labour Mobility Agreements signed with other countries:**

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Name of MOU/Agreement
1.	Denmark	MOU on Labour Mobility Partnership.
2.	Japan	MoC on a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to "Specified Skilled Worker".
3.	Portugal	Agreement on Recruitment of Indian Workers.
4.	Mauritius	MoU on Employment of Workers from India.
5.	Israel	Agreement on Facilitation of the Temporary Employment of Indian workers in Specific Labor Market Sectors in the State of Israel.
6.	Taiwan	MoU on Facilitation of Employment of Indian Workers.
7.	Malaysia	MoU on Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers.

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