

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1357**  
ANSWERED ON- 31/07/2025

**INDIANS ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION/LABOUR INTENSIVE WORKS IN  
FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

**1357. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total number of labourers from India engaged in construction/labour intensive works in foreign countries during the last five years, country-wise;
- (b) the total number of such labourers from Tamil Nadu, district-wise;
- (c) whether Government has any scheme/project/initiative for the welfare of such labourers and to assist them with their well-being in these foreign countries; and
- (d) if so, the details regarding the same including funding allocated and utilised over the last five years for such scheme/project/initiatives and total number of beneficiaries?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) As per data available, a total of 16,06,964 Indian workers (including those engaged in construction/labour intensive works) holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) category passports, have been issued Emigration Clearance (EC) for employment in the ECR countries during the last 5 years from January 2020 to 30 June, 2025. Out of this, the total number of workers from Tamil Nadu is 96,619. Country-wise details of grant of ECs in the last 5 years are attached at **Annexure-A**.

(c) & (d) The Government of India accords highest priority to the safety, protection and wellbeing of Indian workers abroad, including those engaged in construction/labour intensive works in foreign countries.

The Government has established various mechanisms to enable Indian workers to reach out to the Indian Missions in case they need any assistance. Indian workers can contact the Missions/Posts through various channels like walk-in, email, social media, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers and also grievance redressal portals like MADAD, CPGRAMS etc. In addition, Indian Missions/Posts abroad have established Toll Free Helplines, WhatsApp numbers and have launched mobile Apps to enable Indian nationals contact respective Indian Missions/Posts in case of need.

On receipt of complaints of exploitation from Indian workers, our Missions abroad promptly take action including reaching out to the foreign employers/sponsors/local Government authorities as well as the Recruiting Agents for redressal of the complaint.

Besides, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSKs) have been set up in New Delhi and at Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuala Lumpur to provide assistance, guidance and counselling to Indian nationals in distress.

Further, the Government has taken several initiatives such as Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna (PBBY) and Pre-Departure Orientation & Training (PDOT) in ensuring that Indian migrant workers undertake safe migration, have decent working and living conditions in destination countries, are aware of their rights and have access to various welfare schemes of the Government.

Indian Missions/Posts regularly organize Open Houses and Consular Camps in remote areas to get feedback from Indian workers residing in such areas and to address their grievances, if any. On receipt of complaint from or on behalf of the emigrant, the same is taken up pro-actively with concerned Foreign Employer (FE) and the work place of the aggrieved worker is also visited, if required. The complaints pertaining to employment issues are also taken up with the local labour department and other relevant authorities of the host country for prompt redressal.

Further, as additional safeguard for protection and safety of the Female workers (including domestic sector workers), Government has authorized only State run Recruiting Agencies (RAs) to recruit Indian female workers holding ECR category passports for overseas employment in Gulf and other notified ECR Countries through the e-Migrate Portal. Moreover, there is a minimum age criteria of 30 years for female workers holding ECR category passport for overseas employment to protect them against exploitation.

Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs) have been signed with Austria, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark and UK. Labour Mobility Agreements have been signed with Japan, Portugal, Taiwan, Mauritius, Malaysia and Israel. Labour and Manpower Cooperation Agreements have also been signed with the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC), like Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Jordan, that provide overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower issues. Separate Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Agreements with Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Kuwait outline safeguards for domestic workers. These MoUs and Agreements have provision of implementation through a Joint Working Group where matters related to welfare and protection of workers are taken up during regular meetings of Joint Working Groups with concerned countries.

The Missions/Posts utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) from time to time to provide financial and legal assistance to Indian nationals in distress abroad on a means-tested basis. Under ICWF, the major assistance/facilitation like Boarding & Lodging, Air Passage to India, Legal Assistance, Emergency Medical Care, Transportation of Mortal Remains to India, etc., are rendered on priority basis. Details of utilization of ICWF during the last five years is given below:

| Year                             | 2020           | 2021         | 2022         | 2023         | 2024         |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total utilization of ICWF in INR | 1,37,25,05,009 | 37,07,56,312 | 69,20,10,026 | 61,28,38,403 | 62,47,31,044 |

Since the year 2014 till December, 2024, legal assistance by Indian Missions/Posts abroad was extended to 4717 Indian nationals, Boarding & Lodging assistance was provided to 1,79,192 Indian nationals, Emergency medical care provided to 10674 distressed Indian nationals, air passage to 39,028 stranded Indians, and 4059 mortal remains of Indian nationals were airlifted. Since the inception of ICWF, total number of 3,56,410 beneficiaries with the outlay of ₹ 703,42,65,142/- have benefitted from ICWF.

**Annexure - A**

| <b>Total no of ECs granted during the last five years (01.01.2020 to 30.06.25), year-wise &amp; country-wise</b> |               |                |                |                |                |                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Country</b>                                                                                                   | <b>2020</b>   | <b>2021</b>    | <b>2022</b>    | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2024</b>    | <b>2025</b>    | <b>Total</b>     |
| BAHRAIN                                                                                                          | 4,<br>175     | 6,383          | 10,232         | 7,376          | 8,607          | 3,634          | 40,407           |
| INDONESIA                                                                                                        | 1             |                | 3              |                | 3              | 7              | 14               |
| IRAQ                                                                                                             | 759           | 935            | 1,430          | 1,599          | 2,761          | 791            | 8,275            |
| JORDAN                                                                                                           | 317           | 2,386          | 2,487          | 1,187          | 3,137          | 1,024          | 10,538           |
| KUWAIT                                                                                                           | 8,<br>107     | 10,158         | 71,432         | 48,212         | 39,862         | 24,188         | 201,959          |
| LEBANON                                                                                                          | 21            | 54             | 282            | 200            | 130            | 6              | 693              |
| MALAYSIA                                                                                                         | 2,<br>435     | 36             | 12,836         | 15,319         | 5,606          | 1,820          | 38,052           |
| OMAN                                                                                                             | 7,<br>206     | 19,453         | 31,994         | 21,336         | 24,258         | 12,593         | 116,840          |
| QATAR                                                                                                            | 8,<br>907     | 49,579         | 30,871         | 30,683         | 23,785         | 9,676          | 153,501          |
| SAUDI ARABIA                                                                                                     | 44,316        | 32,845         | 178,622        | 200,713        | 167,598        | 71,175         | 695,269          |
| SOUTH SUDAN                                                                                                      |               | 1              | 1              |                |                | 19             | 21               |
| SUDAN                                                                                                            |               |                |                |                | 2              |                | 2                |
| THAILAND                                                                                                         | 10            | 1              | 3              | 4              | 10             |                | 28               |
| UNITED ARAB<br>EMIRATES                                                                                          | 17,891        | 10,844         | 33,233         | 71,688         | 111,308        | 96,401         | 341,365          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                     | <b>94,145</b> | <b>132,675</b> | <b>373,426</b> | <b>398,317</b> | <b>387,067</b> | <b>221,334</b> | <b>1,606,964</b> |

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