

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1414
ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2025

WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS OF PUNJAB

1414. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY

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

- (a) the number of migrant workers from Punjab currently working in various countries including Gulf countries, country-wise;
- (b) the major issues faced by these workers, including labour exploitation, health and legal challenges;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure their safety, legal assistance and welfare; and
- (d) the details of the Indian Community Welfare Fund utilized for repatriating the Indians stranded abroad during the last three years, Indian Embassy-wise, and the details of Indians repatriated during that period, State-wise including Punjab?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Government maintains data in respect of Indian workers, holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports, who proceed for overseas employment after obtaining Emigration Clearance (EC) through e-Migrate portal to any of the notified ECR category countries. Country-wise details of migrant workers from Punjab, who have been issued Emigration Clearances (ECs) and are working in various countries including in Gulf countries, are given in **Annexure -I**.

(b to d) Majority of complaints/grievances received from Indian workers pertains to delay in payment/non-payment of salaries, retention of passports, unfair working conditions, sub standard accommodation, extended working hours, ill treatment/harassment etc.

The Government of India accords highest priority to the safety, protection and wellbeing of Indian workers abroad. There are established channels to enable them to reach out to the Embassy/Consulate in case they need any assistance. They can contact the Embassy/Consulate through walk-in, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, WhatsApp number, grievance redressal portal like MADAD/CPGRAMS/eMigrate, and social media etc. There are dedicated Labour Wings for handling such matters, where there is a sizeable number of Indian migrant

workers. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras have been set up in key locations such as New Delhi, Dubai, Riyadh and Jeddah to provide guidance and counselling to the Indian workers.

On receipt of any complaint or grievance from Indian nationals including labourers, the Embassy/Consulate pro-actively takes it up with the concerned Foreign Employer (FE) and, if needed, the work place of the aggrieved worker is also visited. The issues are also taken up with the local Labour Department and other concerned authority of the host country for redressal.

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.

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 including from Punjab 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 the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) utilized on airfare for repatriation of stranded Indians abroad Mission/Post-wise are given in **Annexure-II**.

Annexure-I

Number of ECs issued to Migrant Workers from Punjab (Country wise from 01.01.2022 to 30.11.2025)	
Country	No. of ECs Issued to Migrant Workers from Punjab
BAHRAIN	1453
INDONESIA	1
IRAQ	62
JORDAN	74
KUWAIT	2945
LEBANON	34
MALAYSIA	266
OMAN	1350
QATAR	1929
SAUDI ARABIA	4465
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	12749
Total	25328

Annexure-II

Mission/Post-wise Expenditure(in INR) on Air Passage to stranded Indians from ICWF during the period 2023-2025(June)				
Sl.No.	Mission/Post	2023	2024	2025
1	Kabul	0	0	44,692
2	Melbourne	0	0	55,618
3	Bahrain	7,65,185	12,62,524	2,46,531
4	Dhaka	0	1,06,089	0
5	Brasilia	11,72,310	0	0
6	Toronto	2,96,552	86,202	57,019
7	Santiago	0	1,27,688	0
8	Guangzhou	0	1,17,424	0
9	Shanghai	45,785	69,362	0
10	Abidjan	0	91,234	0
11	Zagreb	0	34,103	0
12	Prague	0	42,536	42,536
13	Kinshasa	0	1,29,500	45,456
14	Djibouti	4,30,777	0	0
15	Cairo	0	61,270	11,20,303
16	Paris	0	30,134	1,37,647
17	Hamburg	0	1,29,259	0
18	Munich	81,764	0	0
19	Accra	1,15,265	0	0
20	Medan	12,702	0	0
21	Bandar Abbas	1,96,730	0	0
22	Tehran	1,46,754	0	0
23	Baghdad	38,381	0	0
24	Erbil	2,37,549	95,736	34,315
25	Milan	34,710	0	0
26	Osaka-Kobe	0	43,591	0
27	Tokyo	8,99,627	3,91,332	0
28	Amman	58,824	52,381	0
29	Astana	31,243	0	0
30	Nairobi	0	0	34,764
31	Kuwait	9,18,639	3,39,718	1,822,213
32	Bishkek	0	0	0
33	Vientiane	0	1,38,291	4,44,057
34	Beirut	0	28,02,542	0
35	Kuala Lumpur	2,72,150	41,229	38,735
36	Male	3,65,395	0	44,470
37	Port Louis	37,836	89,449	53,555
38	Ulaanbaatar	0	40,204	0
39	Maputo	0	63,316	0
40	Yangon	0	32,973	0

41	Sittwe	98,318	0	0
42	Kathmandu	0	8,68,361	0
43	Wellington	6,47,278	3,68,492	0
44	Abuja	0	0	57,099
45	Muscat	90,42,363	15,74,895	1,51,982
46	Port Moresby	0	91,955	91,955
47	Lima	0	2,70,168	0
48	Manila	1,13,450	1,09,830	0
49	Doha	9,79,729	13,51,241	5,73,031
50	Bucharest	0	35,592	0
51	Moscow	55,207	5,92,365	17,981
52	St. Petersburg	0	3,20,913	0
53	Kigali	71,133	0	0
54	Riyadh	31,69,487	48,48,559	9,69,511
55	Jeddah	17,21,368	10,31,703	26,50,324
56	Victoria (Mahe)	1,57,801	0	0
57	Johannesburg	1,59,808	87,850	0
58	Madrid	61,954	52,735	77,269
59	Colombo	30,10,693	62,81,583	31,51,479
60	Hambantota	0	10,637	0
61	Jaffna	0	31,325	0
62	Kandy	23,730	0	0
63	Khartoum	82,592	0	0
64	Damascus	1,14,348	4,203	0
65	Dushanbe	0	37,143	0
66	Zanzibar	0	39,990	45,456
67	Bangkok	6,97,096	1,38,978	5,023
68	Lome	0	0	96,662
69	Port of Spain	0	4,80,361	0
70	Ankara	1,31,601	0	0
71	Abu Dhabi	73,36,750	50,07,780	9,15,064
72	Dubai	1,36,08,109	27,27,313	47,743
73	Kampala	31,695	0	0
74	Birmingham	1,83,550	0	0
75	London	1,50,326	3,00,674	0
76	Atlanta	0	0	1,83,122
77	Ho Chi Minh City	0	32,146	0
78	Harare	1,93,240	0	0
