

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1508
ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

MIGRATION OF SKILLED WORKFORCE ABROAD

1508. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the migration of India's highly educated, skilled and professional workforce to foreign countries;
- (b) the details of such Indians settling abroad during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (c) the reasons for migration of such workforce and whether this is adversely affecting innovation and startup culture in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a to c) India has historically been a large source of international migrants, with an estimated 35 million Indians and people of Indian origin living abroad as of 2024-25. The increase in migration is a trend that began in the 1990s and continues to date. The economic ties facilitated by migration have strengthened India's bilateral relationships with many countries, encouraging trade, investment and technological collaborations. Beyond economic contributions, the Indian diaspora significantly enhances India's soft power on the global stage. As part of circular mobility, the Indian nationals returning to India after working abroad also help foster innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

The greater participation of Indians in the global workforce has been of benefit to our nation. India has signed Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements/ MoUs /(MMPAs) or Labour Mobility Agreements/MoUs (LMAs) with several countries that host significant Indian diaspora populations, including the Gulf countries, EU, Russia, UK, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Australia, Germany, France, Israel, Portugal, Malaysia, Mauritius, etc. MMPAs aim at harnessing India's demographic dividend and fostering mobility for our business people, professionals, students and academics.

e-Migrate, launched in 2015 is a comprehensive e-Governance portal developed to facilitate safe and legal migration of Emigration Check Required (ECR) category Indian migrant workers emigrating to notified 19 countries for employment purposes. e-Migrate (Version 2.0) was launched on 14 October, 2024. Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) passport holders are exempt from the mandatory emigration check by the Protector of Emigrants (POE). However, ECNR passport holders travelling for employment to 19 designated ECR countries can voluntarily register on the eMigrate portal.

While e-Migrate portal captures data of ECR category workers to ECR countries, concrete data is not available for Indian nationals in ECNR category. However, data on Indian diaspora abroad and number of Emigration Clearances issued is attached respectively at **Annexure 'A' and Annexure 'B'**.

Data on Indian Diaspora Abroad
(as of January 2025)

S.No.	Country/ Territory	PIOs	NRI s	Total Overseas Indians
1	Afghanistan	158	0	158
2	Albania	7	450	457
3	Algeria	27	4024	4051
4	Andorra	200	50	250
5	Angola	59	71	130
6	Antingua & Barbuda	200	300	500
7	Argentina	1800	800	2600
8	Armenia	19	5430	5449
9	Aruba	400	600	1000
10	Australia	626000	350000	976000
11	Austria	18500	14400	32900
12	Azerbaijan	83	672	755
13	Bahamas	20	280	300
14	Bahrain	4506	342350	346856
15	Bangladesh	10	7000	7010
16	Barbados	2500	600	3100
17	Belarus	150	1266	1416
18	Belgium	13204	23343	36547
19	Belize	1300	200	1500
20	Benin	4	996	1000
21	Bhutan	0	60000	60,000
22	Bolivia	15	47	62
23	Bonaire & Smaller Islands	12	54	66
24	Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	20	27
25	Botswana	3000	9500	12500
26	Brazil	863	2460	3323
27	British Virgin Islands	20	80	100
28	Brunei Darussalam	240	14500	14740
29	Bulgaria	1077	949	2026
30	Burkina Faso	350	150	500
31	Burundi	35	700	735
32	Cambodia	100	4400	4500
33	Cameroon	0	1500	1500
34	Canada	1859680	1751610	3611290

35	Cape Verde	1	39	40
36	Cayman Islands	100	900	1000
37	Central African Republic	0	70	70
38	Chad	0	250	250
39	Chile	2100	2000	4100
40	China	59787	43683	103470
41	Colombia	252	758	1010
42	Commonwealth of Dominica	500	40	540
43	Comoros	200	20	220
44	Congo (Democratic Republic)	5000	30000	35000
45	Republic of Congo	0	875	875
46	Cook Islands	5	0	5
47	Costa Rica	39	1011	1050
48	Cote D Ivory	44	6532	6576
49	Croatia	82	17139	17221
50	Cuba	0	0	0
51	Curacao	800	700	1500
52	Cyprus	398	11119	11517
53	Czech Republic	600	10124	10724
54	Denmark	3499	18958	22457
55	Djibouti	8	1000	1008
56	Dominica Republic	2	75	77
57	Ecuador	82	269	351
58	Egypt	366	5134	5500
59	El Salvador	1	20	21
60	Equatorial Guinea	0	400	400
61	Eritrea	0	140	140
62	Estonia	40	1928	1968
63	Eswatini	0	3184	3184
64	Ethiopia	105	5900	6,005
65	Fiji	313818	2290	316108
66	Finland	15989	13068	29057
67	France	90000	29000	119000
68	France (Reunion Island)	300000	159	300159
69	France (Guadeloupe)	57000	180	57180
70	France (Martinique)	8000	90	8090
71	France (St.	1800	150	1950

	Martin)			
72	Gabon	10	800	810
73	Gambia	20	2100	2120
74	Georgia	5	250	255
75	Germany	176500	273890	450390
76	Ghana	321	15000	15321
77	Greece	158	11333	11491
78	Grenada	4511	189	4700
79	Guatemala	16	126	142
80	Guinea (Republic of)	51	1390	1441
81	Guinea-Bissau	0	300	300
82	Guyana	320000	2700	322700
83	Haiti	0	36	36
84	Holy See	30	15	45
85	Honduras	277	8457	8734
86	Hungary	2200	6800	9000
87	Iceland	237	509	746
88	Indonesia	120000	14817	134817
89	Iran	445	10320	10765
90	Iraq	0	17100	17100
91	Ireland	37,812	45,000	82,812
92	Israel	85,000	38,000	123,000
93	Italy	Data not available	170880	170880
94	Jamaica	70000	5000	75000
95	Japan	1597	51345	52942
96	Jordan	153	16897	17050
97	Kazakhstan	423	1095	1518
98	Kenya	60,000	20,000	80,000
99	Kirbati	50	2	52
100	Korea (DPR)	1	15	16
101	Korea (ROK)	444	16816	17260
102	Kuwait	2,356	10,07,961	10,10,317
103	Kyrgyzstan	61	200	261
104	Laos	119	600	719
105	Latvia	Data not available	4766	4766
106	Lebanon	41	2000	2041
107	Lesotho (Kingdom of)	1500	1500	3000
108	Liberia	2	3000	3002
109	Libya	0	3000	3000
110	Liechtenstein	0	35	35
111	Lithuania	Data not available	7227	7227
112	Luxembourg	813	4508	5321
113	Madagascar	15000	2500	17500

114	Malawi	6000	9000	15000
115	Malaysia	2750000	185000	2935000
116	Maldives	140	30000	30140
117	Mali	13	600	613
118	Malta	250	18000	18250
119	Marshall Island	2	7	9
120	Mauritania	0	150	150
121	Mauritius	871140	26357	897497
122	Micronesia	0	35	35
123	Mexico	1500	6500	8000
124	Moldova	9	950	959
125	Monaco	43	10	53
126	Mongolia	11	92	103
127	Montserrat	200	15	215
128	Morocco	116	438	554
129	Mozambique	22000	3000	25000
130	Myanmar	23	354	377
131	Namibia	50	450	500
132	Nauru	0	20	20
133	Nepal	0	700000	700000
134	Netherlands	178000	55613	233613
135	New Zealand	143000	157000	300000
136	Nicaragua	1	39	40
137	Niger	240	10	250
138	Nigeria	8	150	158
139	North Macedonia	52	43	95
140	Norway	12436	11593	24029
141	Oman	1754	660299	662053
142	Pakistan	0	0	0
143	Palau	0	29	29
144	Palestine	0	7	7
145	Panama	11000	4000	15000
146	Papua New Guinea	74	4000	4074
147	Paraguay	200	400	600
148	Peru	154	346	500
149	Philippines	2570	67430	70000
150	Poland	1300	30000	31300
151	Portugal	13682	90000	103682
152	Qatar	Data not available	8,30,491	8,30,491
153	Romania	362	10797	11159
154	Russia	2742	70000	72742
155	Rwanda	5	3000	3005
156	Saint Kitts & Nevis	100	500	600

157	Saint Lusia	18600	550	19150
158	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	6600	50	6650
159	Samoa	50	0	50
160	San Marino	0	0	0
161	Sao Tome	0	32	32
162	Saudi Arabia	0	2747551	2747551
163	Senegal	5	35	40
164	Serbia	20	10000	10020
165	Seychelles	5093	8245	13338
166	Sierra Leone	30	4500	4530
167	Singapore	107180	350000	457180
168	Sint Maarten	3000	2170	5170
169	Slovak Republic	60	5940	6000
170	Slovenia	86	822	908
171	Solomon Islands	0	20	20
172	Somolia	0	100	100
173	South Africa	1318431	74057	1392488
174	South Sudan	0	980	980
175	Spain	16635	51606	68241
176	Sri Lanka	1600000	7500	1607500
177	Sudan	55	85	140
178	Suriname	187700	1350	189050
179	Sweden	93180	22680	115860
180	Switzerland	9400	19,200	28,600
181	Syria	0	39	39
182	Taiwan	408	4641	5049
183	Tajikistan	0	400	400
184	Tanzania	40,000	15,000	55,000
185	Thailand	135179	30236	165415
186	Timor Leste	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
187	Togo	10	1300	1310
188	Tonga	50	5	55
189	Trinidad & Tobago	548286	1259	549545
190	Tunisia	9	80	89
191	Turkiye	386	3635	4021
192	Turkmenistan	4	105	109
193	Turks & Caicos Islands	50	200	250
194	Tuvalu	20	0	20
195	Uganda	9000	30000	39000
196	Ukraine	739	1952	2691
197	UAE	6614	38,90,953	3897567
198	U.K.	970969	369000	1339969

199	U.S.A.	3775194	1918415	5693609
200	Uruguay	50	950	1000
201	Uzbekistan	61	16080	16141
202	Vanuatu	15	0	15
203	Venezuela	21	38	59
204	Vietnam	817	7200	8017
205	Yemen	420	700	1120
206	Zambia	5000	25000	30000
207	Zimbabwe	9000	1000	10000
Total		17181071	17175122	34356193

Number of Emigration Clearances (ECs) issued from 2021 to 2025

COUNTRY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
BAHRAIN	6382	10232	7376	8607	6827	39424
INDONESIA	0	3	0	3	9	15
IRAQ	935	1430	1599	2761	1264	7989
JORDAN	2386	2487	1187	3137	2192	11389
KUWAIT	10158	71432	48212	39862	47087	216751
LEBANON	54	282	200	130	36	702
MALAYSIA	36	12836	15319	5606	3059	36856
OMAN	19453	31994	21336	24258	29158	126199
QATAR	49579	30871	30683	23785	21907	156825
SAUDI ARABIA	32845	178623	200713	167598	136812	716591
SOUTH SUDAN	1	1	0	0	73	75
SUDAN	0	0	0	2	0	2
THAILAND	1	3	4	10	0	18
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	10844	33233	71687	111308	200686	427758
Grand Total	132674	373427	398316	387067	449110	1740594
