

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3124
ANSWERED ON 19/03/2026

INDIAN WORKERS IN GULF COUNTRIES

3124. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian workers died in Gulf countries since 2021 till date, country-wise;
- (b) the number of complaints received from Indian workers regarding wage theft, passport confiscation and inhumane working conditions; and
- (c) the effectiveness of Indian Workers Resource Centres in Gulf countries in providing actual on-ground assistance?

ANSWER

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

(a & b) Country-wise details of total number of Indian workers who died in Gulf countries since 2021 till February 2026 are given in **Annexure-A** and the number of complaints received from Indian workers abroad, including those related to wage theft, passport confiscation and inhuman working conditions are given in **Annexure-B**.

(c) The Government of India accords highest priority to the safety, protection and well-being of Indian workers abroad. There are established channels to enable them to reach out to the Embassy/Consulate in case they need any assistance. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (previously known as Indian Workers Resource Centres) have been set up in key locations such as New Delhi, Dubai, Riyadh and Jeddah, which work in close coordination with the Embassy/Consulate to provide guidance, counselling and all possible assistance to the Indian

workers. They can also 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. 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 any complaint or grievance from Indian workers through the PBSKs as well as other established channels, 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.

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 also 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.

Annexure-A

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Name of the Mission/Post	Total number of Indian workers who died in Gulf countries from 2021 till February, 2026					Upto February 2026
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
1	Bahrain	EOI, Bahrain	342	210	250	226	178	39
2	Kuwait	EOI, Kuwait	1138	676	663	699	714	91
3	Oman	EOI, Muscat	913	452	377	329	360	51
4	Qatar	EOI, Doha	380	318	294	269	287	47
5	Saudi Arabia	EOI, Riyadh	1500	1177	1300	1223	1215	211
		CGI, Jeddah	753	896	1273	1286	1318	246
6	United Arab Emirates	EOI, Abu Dhabi	466	458	446	551	644	130
		CGI, Dubai	2248	1750	1687	2020	2110	385

Annexure-B

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Name of the Mission/Post	No. of Complaints in 2021		No. of Complaints in 2022		No. of Complaints in 2023		No. of Complaints in 2024		No. of Complaints in 2025		No. of Complaints Upto February 2026	
			Recd	Resolved	Recd	Resolved	Recd	Resolved	Recd	Resolved	Recd	Resolved	Recd	Resolved
1	Bahrain	EOI, Bahrain	335	327	612	579	711	649	603	594	345	310	38	22
2	Kuwait	EOI, Kuwait	4339	2910	5660	3820	7820	4517	3728	2055	4081	2608	627	381
3	Oman	EOI, Muscat	1401	1391	2478	1927	4281	4111	3114	3035	2345	2241	233	96
4	Qatar	EOI, Doha	1551	1552	436	568	139	121	162	334	135	257	73	68
5	Saudi Arabia	EOI, Riyadh	1128	1122	1947	1941	2279	2250	2223	1999	2198	1660	250	458
		CGI, Jeddah	650	650	456	456	798	798	630	615	679	665	46	46
6	United Arab Emirates	EOI, Abu Dhabi	755	755	779	779	549	549	387	387	411	407	74	43
		CGI, Dubai	1972	1714	2427	2366	2928	2543	3030	2891	3727	3309	829	646
