

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2168
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2026

OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIAN YOUTH

2168 SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the country-wise details of Memoranda of Understanding and institutional arrangements signed by the Central and State Governments with foreign entities for overseas employment since 2021;
- (b) the country-wise, state-wise, and sector-wise details of Indian workers who secured overseas employment through these government-facilitated channels since then;
- (c) the country-wise details regarding the nature of employment, skill categories, average wages, contract durations and social security benefits provided under these agreements; and
- (d) the institutional mechanisms established to monitor working conditions, verify wages, ensure welfare, and handle the grievance redressal of workers employed under these arrangements?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (d) The country-wise details of Memoranda of Understanding and institutional arrangements signed by the Union Government with various countries for overseas employment since 2021 and the details of institutional mechanisms established to monitor working conditions, verify wages, ensure welfare, and redress the grievances of workers employed under these arrangements are placed at Annexure A.
- (b) & (c) Emigration of Indian workers holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports for overseas employment in ECR countries are facilitated through the eMigrate portal maintained by the Ministry of External Affairs. Since the launch of the portal in 2014, more than 52 lakh workers have been granted emigration clearance for employment in ECR countries. However, the portal does not provide information on whether the emigrant worker has proceeded for employment under a bilateral framework or otherwise. As per available information, country-wise details of ECR Indian workers who secured overseas employment to the ECR countries since 2021 are placed at Annexure B.

Status of Signed Agreements / MoUs – 2021 Onwards

Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements / MoUs (MMPA's), Labour Mobility Agreements (LMA's)

S. No	Country	Name of MoU / Agreement	Date of Signing and Validity	Institutional Mechanism(s)
1.	Australia	Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement	Signed on 23.05.2023; valid for 4 years with automatic renewal.	A Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted and comprises of thematic sub-groups on mobility, returns, and combating irregular migration.
2.	Austria	Agreement on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership	Signed on 13.05.2023; valid for an indefinite period of time.	A Joint Working Group has been established, comprising two sub-groups: the Sub-Group on Mobility, Innovation and Technology, and the Sub-Group on Healthcare Personnel.
3.	Denmark	Agreement on Mobility and Migration Partnership	Signed on 22.02.2024; valid for 7 years with automatic renewal.	A Joint Working Group has been constituted, comprising two Sub-Group Committees: the Sub-Group Committee on Healthcare Professionals and the Sub-Group Committee on Skilled Mobility.
5.	Germany	Agreement on Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership	Signed on 05.12.2022; valid for 7 years with automatic renewal.	Joint Working Group has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the Agreement and to frame appropriate proposals for its implementation.
6.	Italy	Agreement on Migration and Mobility	Signed on 02.11.2023; valid for 5 years with automatic renewal.	A Joint Working Group has been established, comprising four dedicated sub-groups: the Sub-Group on Safe and Legal Migration, and Technical-Linguistic Pre-Departure Training Courses in the Country of Origin; the Sub-Group on Prevention and Combating of Irregular Migration; the Sub-Group on Mobility of Healthcare Personnel; and the Sub-Group on Employment of

S. No	Country	Name of MoU / Agreement	Date of Signing and Validity	Institutional Mechanism(s)
				Highly Qualified Personnel, particularly in the Areas of Academia and Research.
7.	UK	MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership	Signed on 04.05.2021; valid for 7 years with automatic renewal.	A Joint Working Group has been constituted to evaluate the implementation of the provisions of the MoU and to discuss appropriate proposals to improve implementation, as necessary.
8.	EU	MoU Comprehensive Framework Cooperation Mobility on of on	Signed on 27.01.2026; valid for 7 years with automatic renewal.	A Joint Working Group has been established to monitor the implementation of this Memorandum and to exchange views on the implementing arrangements.
9.	Finland	MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership	Signed on 05.03.2026; valid for 4 years.	A Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) serves as the institutional mechanism responsible for overseeing and facilitating the implementation of the MoU.
10.	Netherlands	MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership	Signed on 16/17 May 2026; valid indefinitely.	A Joint Working Group monitors the implementation of the MoU and evaluates the implementation of the arrangements set forth therein.
11.	Slovakia	MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Labour Migration	Signed on 15.06.2026; valid indefinitely.	A Joint Working Group will be established “where necessary” to monitor implementation and review progress.

Labour Mobility Agreements / MoUs (LMA)

S. No	Country	Name of MoU / Agreement	Date of Signing and Validity	Institutional Mechanism(s)
1.	Israel	Agreement on Facilitation of the Temporary	Signed on 03.11.2023; valid for 3 years with	A Joint Coordination Committee has been established to resolve implementation or interpretation

S. No	Country	Name of MoU / Agreement	Date of Signing and Validity	Institutional Mechanism(s)
		Employment of Indian Workers in Specific Labour Market Sectors in the State of Israel	automatic renewal.	issues. Additionally, each sector-specific Implementation Protocol (e.g., Construction Sector, Home-Based Caregivers) designates Cooperating Authorities and Focal Points from each side to coordinate day-to-day implementation.
2.	Japan	MoC on a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to “Specified Skilled Worker”	Signed on 18.01.2021; valid for 10 years with automatic renewal.	A Joint Working Group oversees implementation-related matters and facilitates coordination between the two sides.
3.	Malaysia	MoU on Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of Workers	Signed on 20.08.2024; valid for 5 years, extendable with mutual agreement.	The Joint Working Group (JWG) monitors the implementation of the MoU and addresses employment issues faced by workers and employers in Malaysia.
4.	Mauritius	MoU on Employment of Workers from India	Signed on 10.05.2023; valid for 10 years with automatic renewal.	A Joint Working Group evaluates the implementation of the MoU's provisions and frames proposals to improve it, with the agenda and composition of each meeting set by mutual consultation.
5.	Portugal	Agreement on Recruitment of Indian Citizens to Work in the Portuguese Republic	Signed on 21.09.2021; valid for 5 years, to be renewed with the consent of both parties.	Under this Agreement, India and Portugal exchange information on applicable law and procedures.
6.	Russia	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Temporary Labour Activity of Citizens of One State in the Territory of the Other State; and Agreement between the Government of the	Signed on 04.12.2025; valid for 5 years with automatic renewal.	The India-Russia Labour Activity Agreement provides for a Joint Working Group to address implementation issues.

S. N o	Country	Name of MoU / Agreement	Date of Signing and Validity	Institutional Mechanism(s)
		Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Irregular Migration		

The MoU establishes a Joint Coordination and Exchange of Information Working Group, which exchanges information on prospective vacancies, sectors, skill requirements, and applicable domestic laws, and works to resolve any implementation difficulties.

Annexure-B**Country-wise break-up of Emigration Clearances issued for ECR category passports traveling to ECR countries from 2021 -2026**

Country/Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
AFGHANISTAN							0
BAHRAIN	6382	10232	7376	8607	6827	1903	41327
INDONESIA		3		3	9	15	30
IRAQ	935	1430	1599	2761	1264	162	8151
JORDAN	2386	2487	1187	3137	2192	1422	12811
KUWAIT	10158	71432	48212	39862	47087	11455	228206
LEBANON	54	282	200	130	36	4	706
LIBYA							0
MALAYSIA	36	12836	15319	5606	3059	2662	39518
OMAN	19453	31994	21336	24258	29158	13862	140061
QATAR	49579	30871	30683	23785	21907	8264	165089
SAUDI ARABIA	32845	178623	200713	167598	136811	42988	759578
SOUTH SUDAN		1			73	48	122
SUDAN				2			2
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC							0
THAILAND	1	3					4
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	10844	33233	71687	111308	200685	81238	508995
YEMEN							0
Grand Total	132674	373427	398312	387057	449108	164023	1904601
