

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 556
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

**CONSULTATION ON OVERSEAS MOBILITY (FACILITATION AND WELFARE) BILL,
2025**

556 SMT. RAJATHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposed draft has kept the students and dependents out from the purview of the Bill;
- (b) whether the Bill has clear provisions to support repatriation of mortal remains;
- (c) the country-wise break-up of Indian migrant workers currently categorized as 'vulnerable';
- (d) whether the ministry has received any representation requesting wider dissemination and scheduled language translations and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of organisations that submitted their inputs along with summary of the inputs?

ANSWER

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

(a), (b), (d) & (e) The scope of the Overseas Mobility (Facilitation & Welfare) Bill is to amend the law relating to accessing the global workplace for citizens of India by developing a mechanism for safe, legal, orderly and regular mobility for employment and for stay abroad for work related purposes. The functions of the Overseas Mobility and Welfare Council envisaged in the proposed Bill includes, inter alia, the administration of welfare fund that may be specifically constituted by the Central Government for promoting welfare of Indian citizens living abroad. It may be noted that the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been set up, since 2009, in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to assist Overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency. The Fund is used to provide legal assistance, Boarding & Lodging assistance, Emergency medical care, air passage to stranded Indians and transportation of mortal remains of Indian nationals. A summary of inputs and comments from various NGO's, Trade Unions and other groups received during public consultations carried out from 7th October – 24th November 2025 is attached at **Annexure A**. No representation has been received by the Ministry requesting wider dissemination and scheduled language translations.

(c) The country-wise break-up of Emigration clearances issued for ECR category passports traveling to ECR countries from 2021 – 2026 is attached at **Annexure B**.

ANNEXURE A**Annual Country-wise data on the number of Indians who have migrated for employment purposes from the year 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	132673	373427	398312	387057	449108	164023	1904600

Summarized compilation of inputs/ comments sent by NGO's, Trade Unions and other Groups pursuant to Public Consultations carried out from 7th October - 24th November 2025 on the draft Overseas Mobility (Facilitation & Welfare) Bill, 2026.

National Alliance of People's Movements (Social & Activist Groups)	• Recognition of Indian Workers' Rights: • Regulation of Recruitment Industry in India: • Measures for Protection of Rights of Indian Workers in Destination Countries • Inclusion of Workers as Stakeholders: • Making Universal Insurance a Statutory Requirement • Collaboration with State and Non-State Actors • Provisions for Data Transparency and Accessibility: • Adequate Expansion of State Capacity for Effective Execution of Activities under the Act • Financing Activities under the new Act
IOM, India	• Clarification of key definitions and terminology. • To strengthen migration data collection and information management systems. • Align the Bill's language and framework with internationally accepted migration concepts. • Incorporate principles of ethical recruitment into the international cooperation framework. • Strengthen international cooperation provisions to promote safe, regular migration. • Develop a transparent and standards-based accreditation framework for overseas placement agencies. • Enhance measures for preventing trafficking and supporting victim protection and reintegration. • Improve institutional coordination and migration governance through better data and regulatory mechanisms.
Hind Mazdoor Sabha (Trade Union)	• Recruitment, License and Accountability • Collective Liability of Employers and Recruiting Agencies • Employment Contracts • Overseas Workers Welfare Fund • Independent Oversight Inspection Institution • Grievance and Legal Redress Mechanisms • Data protection, responsible usage of workers registries and transparency • Ratify ILO Conventions and International Labour Standards (ILS)

	• Social Dialogue and Tripartism • Wages, Social Security and Remittances
Self-Employed Women's Association, Kerala (SEWA)	• Strengthen protection for vulnerable and informal migrant workers. • Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of different government ministries. • Introduce stronger labour welfare and employment standards. • Incorporate a gender-responsive approach throughout the Bill. • Improve safeguards and support mechanisms for women migrant workers. • Strengthen regulation and oversight of recruitment practices. • Enhance accountability and enforcement mechanisms. • Clarify funding and reintegration provisions for returning migrants. • Expand social security and worker welfare measures. • Align the Bill more closely with international labour standards. • Decentralize service delivery and improve access at the grassroots level. • Increase stakeholder participation in migration governance. • Strengthen occupational safety and health protections. • Promote social dialogue and worker representation in migration processes.
All India Trade Union Congress	• Adopt a stronger rights-based approach to migrant protection. • Expand the scope of workers and occupations covered under the Bill. • Improve provisions relating to return and reintegration of migrants. Strengthen migrant data collection and information systems. • Clearly define vulnerable categories of migrants. • Enhance the role and capacity of institutional authorities responsible for migrant welfare. • Clarify the role of labour-related institutions in migration governance. Strengthen oversight of government powers affecting overseas mobility. • Reinforce regulation and accountability of recruitment agencies. Introduce stronger safeguards for employment conditions and employer accountability. • Strengthen grievance redressal, enforcement, and appeals mechanisms. • Increase alignment with international labour standards and worker protection principles.
Indian Institute of Migration and Development, Kerala	• Expand the Bill to better cover dependents and minors. • Broaden protections against irregular migration.

	• Strengthen regulation of recruitment intermediaries. • Improve safeguards against exploitative recruitment practices. • Enhance the composition and role of the Overseas Mobility and Welfare Council. • Increase accountability of employers and recruitment actors. • Strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation for migrant welfare. • Promote skill development and long-term employability of migrants. • Improve grievance redressal through greater worker participation. • Strengthen migration data collection while ensuring data privacy. • Enhance protection and support services for vulnerable migrants and victims of exploitation.
Indian National Trade Union Congress, Kerala	• Strengthen bilateral cooperation between origin and destination countries. • Ensure better protection of migrant workers' employment and welfare rights. • Improve grievance redressal and emergency response mechanisms. • Establish stronger welfare and social security support for returnee migrants. • Enhance regulation and transparency of recruitment agencies. • Strengthen registration and monitoring of migrant worker movements.
Pravasi Legal Cell, Kerala	• Strengthen the migrant welfare and institutional support framework. • Enhance the powers and coordination of overseas authorities. • Improve grievance redressal and enforcement mechanisms. • Increase accountability of foreign employers. • Strengthen protections against wage-related exploitation. • Clarify the role and functioning of Mobility Resource Centres. • Strengthen safeguards for migrant data and information systems. • Adopt a more rights-based framework for migrant protection. • Improve accessibility through multilingual outreach and awareness. • Introduce stronger oversight, review, and accountability mechanisms. • Enhance support for returnees and reintegration. • Incorporate gender-responsive safeguards for women migrants. • Strengthen emergency preparedness and crisis response mechanisms.
GATI Foundation	• Support a transition from the existing regulatory framework to the proposed model.

	• Introduce a structured accreditation system for recruitment agencies. • Promote quality assurance and ethical recruitment practices. • Strengthen transparency and accountability within the recruitment ecosystem. • Encourage a balanced framework combining regulatory oversight with facilitation of overseas mobility.
Indian Affiliates Council	• Broaden the regulatory scope to cover all recruitment intermediaries. • Strengthen migration data collection and management systems. • Improve the comprehensiveness of migrant databases. • Enhance social protection and insurance coverage for migrant workers. • Strengthen oversight and accountability of recruitment agencies. • Increase transparency and public access to government-to-government migration arrangements.
Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL)	• Ensure a smooth transition from the existing legal framework to the new regime. • Address concerns relating to the implementation of government-to-government arrangements. • Provide greater stakeholder consultation in rule-making. • Include industry representatives in consultative mechanisms. • Clarify provisions relating to penalties and liabilities. • Strengthen and expand digital migration governance systems.
Pravasi Legal Cell, HQ at Delhi	• Strengthen access to justice and legal remedies for migrants. • Expand insurance and welfare coverage for overseas Indians. • Enhance bilateral cooperation on migrant protection and repatriation. • Broaden the scope of beneficiaries and legal definitions under the Bill. • Strengthen governance through more inclusive and decentralized institutions. • Improve regulation and oversight of recruitment practices. • Enhance migrant data management while ensuring privacy safeguards. • Strengthen reintegration and support for returning migrants. • Increase accountability for exploitation and migrant rights violations. • Improve grievance redressal, outreach, and awareness mechanisms. • Promote a stronger rights-based framework aligned with international standards. • Enhance gender-sensitive and child protection measures. • Increase transparency, public accountability, and stakeholder participation.

Labour Progressive Federation, Chennai	• Strengthen minimum employment and welfare protections for migrant workers. • Enhance regulation and accountability of recruitment agencies. • Improve enforcement mechanisms and overseas worker protection. • Strengthen support for returnees, reintegration, and social security. • Expand protections for low-skilled, informal, and women migrant workers. • Improve transparency and accessibility of migration-related information and services. • Strengthen pre-departure orientation and worker awareness initiatives. • Enhance digital systems for migrant registration and grievance redressal.
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