

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3181**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2018

**INDIAN LABOUR ABROAD**

†3181. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries where Indian citizens are working as labourers;
- (b) the number of such Indian citizens;
- (c) whether all such labourers are working as per Government rules or the said labourers are being made to work illegally and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish a labourer's cell under the Ministry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V.K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a)&(b) This Ministry maintains data relating to emigration of workers, i.e. Emigration Check Required (ECR) category passport holders proceeding for overseas employment to the 18 notified ECR countries; namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, UAE and Yemen. Most of the Missions in these countries have reported that in addition to large number of Indian workers employed as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers engaged in industrial, construction, sanitation, domestic and agricultural sectors, there are also Indians working as professionals, viz. bankers, doctors, engineers, Chartered Accountants, lawyers etc. and businessmen in these countries. The number of ECR passport holding Indian workers, who proceeded after obtaining Emigration Clearance (EC) for overseas employment in ECR countries, during the last three years is annexed.

(c) & (d) Indian workers with ECR passport who emigrate after obtaining Emigration Clearances (EC) from any of the ten Protector of Emigrants (PoE) offices in the country through the online emigration clearance system (e-migrate portal) of the Ministry of External Affairs, can work legally in the destination country and are covered under their labour laws and provided protection by the Protector General of Emigrants of the Ministry of External Affairs and the established local laws/rules of the respective countries. However, action is taken by the Governments at destination countries against those who do not emigrate as per the Government rules and seek employment in violation of the local laws/rules. There is no proposal of establishing any labour cell in the Ministry, as

the ten Protector of Emigrants (PoE) offices in India, under the supervision of Protector General of India, are already mandated under the Emigration Act 1983, to ensure protection and welfare of overseas Indian workers.

(e) Does not arise.

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ANNEXURE-I

EMIGRATION CLEARANCE GRANTED TO ECR PASSPORT HOLDER INDIAN  
WORKERS, DESTINATION WISE, DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Countries</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
1	Afghanistan	70	0	0
2	Bahrain	15619	11964	11516
3	Indonesia	06	01	10
4	Iraq	01	0	0
5	Jordan	2046	2742	2341
6	Kuwait	66543	72384	56380
7	Lebanon	341	316	110
8	Libya	0	0	0
9	Malaysia	20895	10604	14002
10	Oman	85028	63236	53332
11	Qatar	59340	30619	24759
12	S. Arabia	306642	165355	78611
13	Sudan	29	0	1
14	South Sudan	0	0	0
15	Syria	0	0	0
16	Thailand	10	01	0
17	U. A. E.	225512	163716	149962
18	Yemen	01	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>782083</b>	<b>520938</b>	<b>391024</b>

Source: e-Migrate portal.

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