

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.852
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018

INDIAN WORKERS ABROAD

852. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has obtained information with regard to Indian citizens working as labourers in companies as well as with high ranking officers in foreign countries, particularly in Dubai and Arabian countries;
- (b) if so, the details of labourers such as beldars, carpenters, plumbers, electricians etc. working in big companies, particularly in Dubai;
- (c) the number of labourers along with the details of those companies; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government for their security?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government maintains the data in respect of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holding Indian workers including helper, carpenter, electrician, plumber etc, emigrating legally to any of the 18 ECR countries for overseas employment. Country-wise and Job Role-wise Emigration Clearances Granted to such workers during the year 2017 is at **Annexure-I**. Exact figures regarding the total number of labourers in different Job Roles and companies in United Arab Emirates is not available as the authorities there do not share such data.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to safeguard the interests of Indian emigrants to the Gulf countries, these are:

- (i) The on-line MADAD portal enables the emigrant workers and their family members to register their consular grievances online and track their redressal.
- (ii) Grievances related to Overseas Employment in notified Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries including gulf countries, can also be logged in directly by emigrants/relatives or through the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) on eMigrate portal. These grievances are settled by respective jurisdictional Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) as per laid down procedures.
- (iii) Missions in Gulf countries also conduct Open Houses on a regular basis where workers can seek redressal of their grievances.
- (iv) A multi-lingual 24X7 Helpline of Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in New Delhi provides information, guidance and grievance

redressal on all issues and problems pertaining to overseas employment of Indian nationals.

- (v) Missions in Gulf countries have also established 24x7 helplines and Toll Free help lines for the benefit of Indian workers to seek help.
- (vi) An Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) has been set up at Dubai (UAE) and four more IWRCs have been set up in Sharjah (UAE), Riyadh and Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to provide guidance and counselling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers.
- (vii) Migrant Resource Centres have also been setup in Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Lucknow to assist emigrants or their relatives to redress their problems/complaints regarding overseas employment.
- (viii) The Missions utilise the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide assistance to overseas Indian nationals in times of distress.
- (ix) Suitable accommodation to distressed Indian nationals has been setup in Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Malaysia to provide temporary accommodation.
- (x) Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements are already in place with the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries that provide the institutional framework to comprehensively discuss and review labour related issues.

ANNEXURE-I

**NUMBER OF EMIGRATION CLEARANCES GRANTED TO ECR
PASSPORT HOLDING INDIAN WORKERS, JOB ROLE WISE, COUNTRY
WISE, DURING THE YEAR 2017**

Sl. No.	Job Roles (Top Ten)	United Arab Emirates	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
1	Carpenter	23759	2078	3186	2658	8861	1045	41587
2	Electrician	6990	3391	1851	1480	3558	410	17680
3	Plumber	1823	1731	417	749	2720	156	7596
4	Labour	9589	28511	7281	1870	0	1615	48866
5	Driver	0	11051	11055	1430	0	0	23536
6	Cleaner	9461	3738	467	0	2795	79	16540
7	Mechanic	25404	5578	10375	7415	4751	1101	54624
8	Mason	30664	3180	1630	3835	12336	1238	52883
9	Helper	16819	171	3059	161	2988	432	23630
10	Painter	4035	1187	715	512	2961	362	9772
	Total	128544	60616	40036	20110	40970	6438	296714

Source: e-Migrate portal.
