

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2501**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2018

**INDIANS WORKING ABROAD**

†2501. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian citizens working abroad as mere labourers along with the names of countries where they are working;
- (b) whether all such labourers are working as per the Government norms or they are being put to work illegally as well and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a labour cell under the Ministry; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) This Ministry maintains data relating to emigration of workers including labourers holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport, proceeding for overseas employment to the 18 notified ECR countries; namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, UAE and Yemen. The country-wise number of Emigration Clearances issued to Indian workers traveling overseas as labourers for the last three years is annexed.

(b) Indian ECR passport holding workers are recruited for a variety of job roles such as Mason, labourers, carpenter, helper, electrician etc. Due to economic slowdown in Gulf countries in recent years, some companies have resorted either to transfer/re-deploy their manpower to other companies or send them back to India. Sometimes such redeployment results in change of job role which is not illegal, as the same is accepted by the worker. The information relating to those workers who travel overseas for employment illegally are not maintained by the Government.

(c) & (d) The ten Protector of Emigrants (PoE) offices in India, under the supervision of Protector General of Emigrants are mandated to ensure protection and welfare of overseas Indian workers, who travel legally for jobs abroad in 18 ECR countries.

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## ANNEXURE

Emigration Clearance granted to ECR passport holding Indian workers as labourers, for overseas employment to ECR countries during the last three years and current year (up to 30-6-2018)

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name to Country</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018 (up to 30/6/2018)</b>
1.	Bahrain	71	938	1615	308
2.	Jordan	63	468	642	171
3.	Kuwait	1098	13756	10830	5399
4.	Lebanon	89	276	95	43
5.	Qatar	1271	2703	1870	2064
6.	Saudi Arabia	14360	65046	35130	18267
7.	United Arab Emirates	215	9217	10684	3434
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17167</b>	<b>92404</b>	<b>60866</b>	<b>29686</b>

Source: e-Migrate.

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