

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1506**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2018

**DECLINE IN IMMIGRATION**

1506. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a large decline in immigration of Indian workers to Gulf countries since 2015;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of immigration clearance granted to Indian workers for Gulf countries in the last four years and the current year, country-wise; and
- (c) the reasons for such a huge decline in the immigration of Indian workers to Gulf countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) As per the data captured in e-Migrate system, the number of emigration clearances granted to Indian Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holding workers going to Gulf countries for employment has come down compared to the corresponding numbers in the year 2015. A statement showing the country-wise number of emigration clearances granted to Indian workers for Gulf countries in the last four years and the current year is annexed.

There are several reasons for decreasing number of emigration clearance through the e-Migrate system. Prominent among them is that the Gulf countries are passing through a period of economic slowdown primarily because of the slump in oil prices. Coupled with this, the Gulf countries are aiming at filling up maximum posts both in Public and Private Sector by their own nationals. Therefore, there has been a demand shortage for foreign workers in these countries. Moreover, a large number of Indian nationals holding ECR passports reportedly travel to the Gulf countries on tourist visa and get their visas converted to employment visa, thereby bypassing the e-Migrate system. These numbers as well as the number of Non ECR passport holders going to the ECR countries for employment are not reflected in the e-Migrate emigration clearance data.

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**ANNEXURE**

Statement showing number of country-wise emigration clearance granted to Indian workers for Gulf countries during the last four years and the current year.

Sl. No.	Name of Countries	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (upto 30-11-18)
1	Bahrain	14207	15623	11964	11516	8522
2	Kuwait	80419	66579	72384	56380	52245

3	Oman	51317	85054	63236	53332	32316
4	Qatar	75983	59384	30619	24759	32492
5	S. Arabia	329882	308380	165355	78557	65542
6	U. A. E.	224037	225718	163716	149780	103720
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>775845</b>	<b>760738</b>	<b>507274</b>	<b>374324</b>	<b>294837</b>

Source: e-Migrate portal.