

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3532**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019

**ECR REGISTRATION**

3532. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently the Government had made mandatory for all Non-ECR passport holding Indian emigrants travelling to 18 ECR countries for work to register and if so, the details thereof alongwith the reason behind it;
- (b) whether the Government is going to provide the registration facility at the Airports also and if so, the details of the airports and if not, the reason therefor; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is huge drop in the number of unskilled migrants leaving the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

(a) & (b) The system in vogue is continuing. Only ECR passport holders are required to register in the e-Migrate while going to ECR countries for employment for taking emigration clearance.

(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 ECR countries for employment have come down compared to the corresponding numbers in the year 2015.

There are several reasons for decreasing number of emigration clearances 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 ECR countries on tourist visa and get their visas converted to employment visa, thereby bypassing the e-Migrate system. In addition, many are going for employment on ECNR passports, hence do not require to take clearance or mandatorily register in the e-Migrate system presently. Primarily, these are the reasons why data in the e-Migrate system is showing a declining trend over the last three years.

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