

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 583
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022**

INDIAN WORKERS IN GULF COUNTRIES

583. SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

- (a) total number of Indian workers working in Gulf countries;
- (b) whether the Government has reduced the Minimum Referral Wages applicable to Indian workers in the Gulf;
- (c) whether organisations representing Indian workers in the Gulf have requested the Government to rollback this reduction;
- (d) if so, whether the Government intends to accede to their request and if not, the reasons therefor,
- (e) whether the Government has estimated the impact in terms of loss of earnings for each worker;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) to (f) As per information available with our Missions in Gulf countries, estimated number of Indians(including workers) is tabulated below:

Name of country	Estimated number of Indians (including workers)
Bahrain	308662
Kuwait	924687
Oman	653500
Qatar	844499

Saudi Arabia	2465464
United Arab Emirates	3554274
Total	8751086

The Ministry maintains record of ECR passport category workers who migrate to the Gulf countries after obtaining Emigration Clearance through the eMigrate Portal. As per data from eMigrate portal, country wise number of Emigration Clearances issued to Indian ECR category passport holders for 6 Gulf countries during last four years is given below:

Name of country	2019	2020	2021	2022 (till 31 October)	Total
Bahrain	9997	4175	6382	9706	30260
Kuwait	45712	8107	10158	65689	129666
Oman	28392	7206	19452	29845	84895
Qatar	31810	8907	49579	28556	118852
Saudi Arabia	161103	44316	32845	151072	389336
United Arab Emirates	76112	17891	10844	30164	135011
Total	353126	90602	129260	315032	888020

The Minimum Referral Wages (MRW) for employment in 6 Gulf countries is the same now as it was in 2019-20. For a brief period of 10 months, the MRW were adjusted downwards, due to the Covid situation, to protect our employment in the Gulf. As the labour market stabilized, the earlier MRW was made applicable once again.
