

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-238
ANSWERED ON- 03/02/2023

SMUGGLING OF INDIAN CITIZENS

238. SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has gathered data on Indian citizens smuggled to other countries;
- (b) if so, the details of the people smuggled in the past three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has adopted a framework to control and mitigate human smuggling from India; and
- (d) 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 d) Data relating to registration of cases of trafficking to other countries is not maintained by the Ministry of External Affairs. As and when complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are received, they are referred to the State Government for investigation and prosecution.

The Government of India encourages only legal form of migration from India. The Ministry routinely organizes outreach programs to sensitize various stakeholders about benefits of safe and legal migration and on possible ways of preventing illegal migration through fake or unregistered recruitment agencies. Information about illegal agents is also uploaded and updated on regular basis on the eMigrate Portal.

Ministry also issues advisories, media briefings and tweets about fake job rackets from time to time. Such communications are also issued by concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad through their websites and social media handles and through the print media.

Quick and decisive action is taken by concerned Indian Missions/Posts as well as by Protector of Emigrant offices in India whenever instances of exploitation of workers by illegal agents are noticed. As on 10 January 2023, 2331 illegal agents have been notified in eMigrate Portal. This information is regularly updated based on complaints filed by affected individuals. These complaints are also forwarded to concerned state police authorities for taking suitable action against illegal/fake agents as per existing laws.

The Ministry through Indian Missions/Posts abroad, takes pro- active measures for rescue of Indian nationals trapped in foreign countries whenever such cases come to the notice of the Ministry.
