

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2713
ANSWER ON- 04/08/2023

MINIMUM REFERRAL WAGES

2713. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

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

- (a) whether the Government has readjusted the Minimum Referral Wages applicable to Indians working in the Gulf region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has estimated the impact of a potential recession in terms of the loss in earnings for these workers; 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 & b) The Minimum Referral Wages (MRW) for Indian workers emigrating to the six Gulf countries (Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar) was readjusted downward for a brief period from September 2020 to July 2021 in order to protect the jobs of Indian nationals in these countries in the aftermath of COVID-19 crisis. As soon as the pandemic situation improved, the MRW was re-adjusted at pre-COVID-19 level with effect from July 2021.

Further, in July 2022, the Government has adjusted the MRW upward for Kuwait for two categories of Indian workers (Domestic Workers and Nurses) as to benefit our workers.

(c & d) The number of Emigration Clearances issued through e-Migrate portal to the Indian migrant workers for GCC countries during the last three years, shows increasing opportunities to our workers; as follows:

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan to June)	Grand Total
Saudi Arabia	44316	32845	178630	100734	356525
Kuwait	8107	10158	71432	25550	115247
Qatar	8907	49579	30871	14043	103400
UAE	17891	10844	33233	27827	89795
Oman	7206	19452	31994	10933	69585
Bahrain	4175	6382	10232	4185	24974
Grand Total	90602	129260	356392	183272	759526
