

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-990**  
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2023

**INDIAN UNSKILLED WORKERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

990. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA :

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

- (a) the total number of Indians who have gone to foreign countries to work as unskilled workers in the Gulf nations, North America and Europe, during the last three years, year and State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the total number of individuals who have been deported back to India during the said period;
- (c) the total number of individuals who are being held in prisons, camps/detention centres on charges of illegal entry into foreign countries;
- (d) whether the Government has any scheme/initiative in place regarding the welfare and protection of Indians who migrate to foreign countries to work as labourers/unskilled workers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the number of beneficiaries of such schemes; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

- (a) As per available data, there are around 15 million Indian nationals abroad including unskilled workers, skilled workers and professionals. This Ministry maintains the data in respect of Indian workers, holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports, proceeding for overseas employment through e-Migrate portal to any of the 18 ECR countries. The State and UT-wise details of the Emigration Clearances granted to Indian workers (including workers from Andhra Pradesh) who migrated for overseas employment to 18 ECR countries during the last three years are enclosed as Annexure A.
- (b & c) Many foreign countries do not provide information on illegal stay in their countries, except when they are under orders of deportation and travel document/nationality verification is required. The procedure followed for deportation of foreign nationals also varies from country to country. Some countries do not arrest the deportee and keep them in detention/deportation centers until deportation. Moreover, the information about arrest/detention and deportation is not shared with Indian Missions/Posts and the deportation is done directly by the host Government if the deportee has valid travel document. Our Missions/Posts are contacted by the host Governments only in such cases where the nationality verification and issuance of Emergency Certificate (EC) to the deportee is required. Since all foreign countries do not share details of all Indian deportees, the exact number of Indians deported from foreign countries is not available with the Ministry of External Affairs.

(d to f) To promote legal migration, Ministry has taken several initiatives such as Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna (PBBY) and Pre-Departure Orientation & Training (PDOT) in ensuring that migrant workers undertake safe migration, have decent working and living conditions in destination countries, are aware of their rights and have access to GoI welfare schemes.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a mandatory insurance scheme aimed at safeguarding the interests of ECR category Indian emigrant workers going for employment to ECR countries. The scheme provides an insurance cover of INR. 10 lakh and other benefits in case of accidental death or permanent disability leading to job loss, at a nominal insurance premium of INR 275/- for two years or INR 375/- for three years validity. The scheme was revised in 2017, to ensure expeditious settlement of claims. 76,20,878 policies have been issued and 2166 claims settled under PBBY till October, 2023.

PDOT is a one-day training programme on soft skills imparted by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), State Governments and other stake holders. As on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023, 1,34,227 prospective migrant workers have benefited from the program in physical and online formats.

Our Mission/Posts abroad also utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide necessary assistance, including legal, on means tested basis to Indian citizens abroad and their dependents in times of distress including in the process of transportation of mortal remains to India or local cremation with the consent of the family and settlement of death claims. Since 2014 till September, 2023, legal assistance by Indian Missions/Posts abroad was extended to 3321 Indian nationals, Boarding & Lodging assistance was provided to 1,70,402 Indian nationals, Emergency medical care provided to 10,515 distressed Indian nationals, air passage to 37,459 stranded Indians, and 3,461 mortal remains of Indian nationals were airlifted.

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**EC issued to Indian Workers for 18 ECR Countries**  
**(As per data available on e-Migrate Portal)**

State	2020	2021	2022	2023 (till Nov)
UTTAR PRADESH	28911	35221	123702	132056
BIHAR	13911	24526	60945	62139
WEST BENGAL	7425	9917	31789	29130
RAJASTHAN	6126	11345	28819	22914
TAMIL NADU	6476	8830	23556	25271
KERALA	8487	10560	16253	17157
ANDHRA PRADESH	3882	5482	19347	15014
PUNJAB	3317	5983	10654	10695
TELANGANA	2984	4375	11990	9720
ODISHA	2199	4179	6726	6064
MAHARASHTRA	2592	2828	6846	6755
KARNATAKA	1476	2143	5700	5714
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1095	992	4868	4914
JHARKHAND	831	1481	4322	3992
GUJARAT	1494	1583	3438	3453
UTTARAKHAND	821	864	3627	3503
ASSAM	566	395	3594	3231
DELHI	388	508	1569	1469
HARYANA	314	459	1232	1238
MADHYA PRADESH	220	232	1369	1240
TRIPURA	248	145	1197	1294
GOA	105	262	622	402
HIMACHAL PRADESH	115	145	414	414
PUDUCHERRY	75	123	318	365
CHANDIGARH	30	45	346	240
CHHATTISGARH	33	24	126	101
DAMAN & DIU	11	9	16	23
MANIPUR	4	9	13	23
MEGHALAYA	3	3	11	11
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	2	0	11	5
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	2	0	3	6
NAGALAND	1	4	2	3
SIKKIM	1	0	4	4
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	1	3	4
LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	2	3
MIZORAM	0	0	0	2
LADAKH	0	0	0	1

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