

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2622  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021**

**RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS**

**2622. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken initiatives to protect human rights of migrant workers in Bahrain, Dubai and in other Gulf countries during corona pandemic and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the number of migrant workers who came back to India during the pandemic?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) The Government established a robust institutional framework towards ensuring the welfare and safety for protection of Indian workers working abroad including Gulf countries. The e-Migrate system, Pre-Departure Orientation Programme, MADAD portal, Indian Community Welfare Fund, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras Helplines at Indian Missions and Posts, Shelter Homes, etc. are some of the mechanisms to expeditiously assist Indian workers abroad. In addition, the Government signed Labour Employment and Cooperation agreements with major destination countries, including Gulf countries, and holds Joint Working Group meetings, to ensure redressal of grievances and protection of rights of Indian workers.

During Covid-19 pandemic, the Government engaged counterparts at the Ministerial level to protect the interests of Indian workers, both in livelihood and health. Our Missions/Posts proactively extended support to Indians in distress by providing assistance from Indian Community Welfare Fund and coordinating with community associations for Boarding & Lodging, Air passages and Emergency Medical Care. Further, they coordinated the repatriation of Indians stranded abroad under the VBM.

(b) As per estimates, about seven lakh sixteen thousand Indian workers from six Gulf countries returned to India, under Vande Bharat Mission, during the Covid Pandemic.

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