

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5053
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2022**

EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN ABROAD

†5053. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian women going abroad for various jobs are being exploited;
- (b) if so, the details of such complaints received during the last three years particularly from the Gulf countries, Year-wise and Country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban employment of women below thirty years of age as domestic servants in the Gulf countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]**

(a) & (b) Indian Missions/Posts in the Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries including Gulf Countries have reported that complaints have been received from Indian women workers, regarding non-payment of salaries and denial of legitimate labour rights and other issues such as non-issuance/renewal of residence permits, Overtime Allowance, weekly holidays, working for longer hours, refusal to grant exit/recruitment – entry permits for visit to India, refusal to allow the worker on final exit visa after completion of their contracts and not providing medical and insurance facilities etc. Incidents of confinement or abandoning of housemaids by their sponsors have also been reported. A statement showing the number of complaints received by the Indian Missions in the 18 Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries, including the gulf countries, since year 2019 till date, year-wise and country-wise, is given at **Annexure-A.**

(c) & (d) The Government has already put in place the following measures to safeguard and regulate emigration of Indian women workers, including maids holding ECR passports, for overseas employment :

(i) All women emigrants (Except Nurses) emigrating on ECR passports to ECR countries irrespective of nature/category of employment must be above the age of 30 years.

(ii) The emigration clearance of all female workers having ECR passports, for overseas employment in 18 ECR countries, including Gulf countries, has been made mandatory through 10 State-run recruiting agencies only. These are: NORKA Roots and Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants (ODEPC) of Kerala, Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) of Telangana, Overseas Manpower Company Andhra Pradesh Limited (OMCAP) of Andhra Pradesh, Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd. (OMCL) of Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh Financial Corporation (UPFC) of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) of Rajasthan, Karnataka State Unorganized Workers Society Security Board (KUWSSB) and Karnataka Vocational Training & Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC) of Karnataka and M/s PanIIT Alumni Reach for Jharkhand Foundation of Jharkhand.

(iii) In respect of direct recruitment of all ECR passport holder women workers in respect of all ECR countries, the Foreign Employer is required to deposit a Bank Guarantee equivalent to US \$2500 for recruiting each woman worker, in the respective Indian Mission.

(iv) Registration of foreign employers in the e Migrate system has been made mandatory with effect from June 2015.

Annexure-A

Country-wise No. of complaints from female workers registered in eMigrate

Sl. No.	ECR countries	2019	2020	2021	2022 (till date)
1.	Afghanistan	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
2.	Bahrain	2	1	6	Nil
3.	Indonesia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Iraq	1	Nil	4	Nil
5.	Jordan	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Lebanon	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Libya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Kuwait	20	33	22	4
9.	Malaysia	21	8	19	3
10.	Oman	9	13	1	Nil
11.	Qatar	2	2	4	1
12.	Saudi Arabia	78	58	60	6
13.	Sudan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	South Sudan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Syria	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Thailand	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
17.	United Arab Emirates	55	39	22	3
18.	Yemen	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		189	154	140	17
