

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1022
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2022**

REHABILITATION PACKAGE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

1022. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has passed any resolution related to the welfare of migrant labourers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that about 13 lakh migrants from Kerala who lost their jobs have returned to India from various countries due to COVID-19 if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for announcing a rehabilitation package worth Rs. 20,000 crores for such migrants from the State, if so, the status thereof along with the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the welfare and safety of Indian nationals abroad. To facilitate return of Indian nationals stranded in various countries due to restriction imposed in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the Vande Bharat Mission commenced on 7 May 2020. Since then, more than 1374237 Indians (as on 10 September 2020) have returned to India via air, land and sea. Of them, 308099 were workers; not all of them had lost their jobs, but returned on account of Covid-19 situation. In recent months, Indians have started to return to the Gulf and other countries to rejoin their jobs or for family reunions. Around 7,16,000 Indians returned from the Gulf countries. The number of migrants from Kerala who have returned to India from various countries due to COVID-19 through Vande Bharat Mission is 236636.

(c) During 2020-21, Government has received many proposals from different quarters regarding the welfare and livelihood of Indian workers in the Gulf. This includes the State of Kerala as well. It was the Government's priority to ensure during the pandemic that its impact on Indian workers in terms of loss of employment was mitigated. To that end, the Ministry and all our Missions in the Gulf were continuously engaged with the Governments of the Gulf nations to maintain the workers, ensure their welfare and facilitate financial payments due to them. As the pandemic has receded in recent months, this focus has shifted to pressing for return of workers and families on an expeditious basis. To that end, all Gulf nations were pressed to establish air bubbles and ease visa, travel and health restrictions. All countries in the Gulf have responded favourably to these efforts by the Government as a result of which, there has been a

steady flow of returnees back to the Gulf. Government will continue to make this priority in engagement with the Gulf nations.
