

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2025

ANSWERED ON- 02/08/2024

WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS

2025. SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO

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

(a) the total number of labourers from India engaged in construction/labour intensive works in foreign countries during the last five years, country-wise, especially in USA, European countries and the Gulf region;

(b) the total number of such labourers from Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any scheme/project/initiative for the welfare of such labourers and to assist them with their well-being in these foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details regarding the same including funding allocated and utilised over the last five years for such scheme/project/initiatives and total number of beneficiaries; and

(e) whether the Government has considered setting up any authority/helpline to assist Indian labourers in foreign countries , if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(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.

Country wise details of the Emigration Clearances issued to Indian workers who migrated for overseas employment to 18 ECR countries during last five years through eMigrate portal are enclosed as Annexure A. Those who did not obtain Emigration Clearances are, however, not reflected in the database.

(b) District wise details of workers (including labourers) from Andhra Pradesh who migrated for overseas employment to 18 ECR countries including the Middle Eastern countries during last five years through eMigrate portal are enclosed as Annexure B.

(c & d) The Government accords highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad and has taken several

initiatives such as Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna (PBBY) and Pre-Departure Orientation & Training (PDOT) in ensuring that Indian migrant workers (including labourers) undertake safe migration, have decent working and living conditions in destination countries, are aware of their rights and have access to various welfare schemes of the Government. The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a mandatory insurance scheme aimed at safeguarding the interests of ECR category Indian migrant workers going for employment to 18 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. 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.

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 year 2014 until March 2024, around Rs.656/- crores has been utilized by Indian Missions/Posts abroad under the

Fund and around 3,50,194 Indians were extended assistance.

(e) The Process of emigration of Indian workers (including labourers) having Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) category passports, is regulated under the Emigration Act, 1983, which is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) through Overseas Employment (OE) and Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) Division. The Government has established various mechanisms to enable Indian workers abroad to reach out in case they need any assistance. The workers can contact the Missions/Posts through various channels like walk-in, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portal like MADAD, CPGRAMS, and eMigrate, and social media etc. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in New Delhi and at Dubai (UAE), Riyadh & Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide assistance, guidance and counselling to Indian workers in distress.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad have also established 24X7 Helplines including Toll Free Helplines, whatsapp numbers and have launched mobile Apps to enable Indian nationals contact respective Indian Missions/Posts when in distress or in emergency situation.

Missions/Posts in Gulf Countries also have dedicated labour wings which ensure prompt redressal of labour grievances. Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals have been set up in countries having

sizeable presence of Indians such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE. These shelter homes provide free boarding and lodging to Indian nationals in distress pending their repatriation back to India.

On receiving complaint from migrant workers against the Foreign Employers(FE), the concerned Indian Mission/Post takes up the matter with the employer/local authorities. On finding any FE at fault, they are placed under Prior Approval Category (PAC) and further employment of Indian workers through that particular FE is allowed only after due consultation with the concerned Indian Mission/Post. Issues relating to FEs are also raised in the periodic meetings of the Joint Working Group held under the aegis of Memorandum of Understandings signed with various countries.

Indian Missions/Posts also regularly organize Open House and Consular camps in remote areas to interact and get feedback from the Indian workers abroad and address their grievances.

ANNEXURE – A

Country-wise data of Emigration Clearances granted through e-Migrate portal to the Indian migrant workers during last 5 years:

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Till (25.07.2024)
KSA	161103	44316	32845	178630	200713	92947
UAE	76112	17891	10844	33233	71688	50568
Kuwait	45712	8107	10158	71432	48212	20964
Qatar	31811	8907	49579	30871	30683	12178
Oman	28392	7206	19453	31994	21336	14167
Malaysia	10633	2435	36	12836	15319	4839
Bahrain	9997	4175	6383	10232	7376	5348
Jordan	0	317	2386	2487	1187	1841
Iraq	162	759	935	1430	1599	1343
Lebanon	160	21	54	282	200	107
Thailand	24	10	1	3	4	10
Indonesia	0	1	0	3	0	2
South Sudan	0	0	1	1	0	0
Afghanistan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sudan	0	0	0	1	0	2
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	0
Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,68,049	94,145	1,32,675	3,73,425	3,98,317	2,04,316

ANNEXURE – B

District-wise data of Emigration Clearances granted through e-Migrate portal to the workers from Andhra Pradesh who migrated for overseas employment to 18 ECR countries including the Middle Eastern countries during the last 5 years:

District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (till 25th July 2024)
ANANTAPUR	322	52	80	329	493	372
CHITTOOR	1277	242	340	1467	1063	527
EAST GODAVARI	1466	287	481	1656	1373	768
GUNTUR	116	27	18	109	123	47
KRISHNA	215	38	44	165	166	109
KURNOOL	332	77	71	235	300	220
NELLORE	406	48	4	0	0	79
NIZAMABAD	887	166	21	0	0	0
SRI POTTI SRIRAMULU NELLORE	224	73	135	651	524	166
SRIKAKULAM	1344	356	864	861	1129	552
VISHAKHAPATNAM	1425	636	885	2424	1960	909
VIZIANAGARAM	91	48	40	105	169	53
WEST GODAVARI	2877	539	838	2780	2363	1508
YSR DISTRICT	6783	1256	1605	8351	6630	3318
PRAKASAM	120	16	16	98	94	43
	17,885	3,861	5,442	19,231	16,387	8,671
