

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 694

ANSWERED ON- 29/11/2024

COMPENSATION FOR INDIAN MIGRANT WORKERS

694. SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD

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

(a) the details of Indian citizens currently employed in various countries, country-wise;

(b) the details of Indian citizens currently employed in various countries as per their State of origin, State-wise;

(c) the top ten countries with the highest number of Indian workers and their respective employments;

(d) the number of Indian migrant workers who have died overseas while in employment and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to return their corpses to their families for dignified funeral, and compensation and other financial support given to their families;

(e) whether the Government has undertaken any specific study/studies about the living and working conditions of Indian migrants abroad and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether Government has undertaken any initiatives to ameliorate the living and working conditions of Indian migrants abroad and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) As per the available information, there are around 15 million Indian nationals abroad including unskilled workers, skilled workers and professionals. 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 notified ECR category countries. The country-wise and the State/UT-wise data of Emigration Clearances (ECs) granted to such workers during the last 4 years are enclosed as Annexure – I and Annexure-II respectively.

(c) As per the EC data issued during 2021-2024, the top ten countries to which highest number of Indian workers emigrated is given below.

Sr. No.	Name of the country	Number EC issued
1.	Saudi Arabia	5,63,813
2.	United Arab Emirates	2,12,018
3.	Kuwait	1,64,017
4.	Qatar	1,32,887
5.	Oman	94,907
6.	Malaysia	33,482
7.	Bahrain	31,836
8.	Jordan	8,982
9.	Iraq	6,370
10.	Lebanon	666

Majority of these workers from India are employed in the Gulf countries in various sectors like construction, oil & gas, food and beverage industry, hospitality, retail, housekeeping, domestic work, warehousing and logistics, healthcare, engineering, IT, finance, farming, manufacturing, transport, port and shipping, tourism, mining, education, wholesale, retail, automobiles, domestic works such as plumbers, electricians, drivers, maids, cleaners, and cooks etc.

(d) The data pertaining to cases of death of Indian nationals (including Indian workers) in ECR countries during year 2024 is given below:

Sr. No.	Country	Number of death
1.	Saudi Arabia	1,025
2.	United Arab Emirates	1,681
3.	Kuwait	564
4.	Qatar	210
5.	Oman	284
6.	Malaysia	387
7.	Bahrain	205
8.	Jordan	05
9.	Lebanon	16
10.	Sudan	03
11.	South Sudan	03
12.	Indonesia	07
13.	Afghanistan	02
14.	Libya	04

Our Missions/Posts abroad on receipt of information about death of Indian national, promptly issues all death related documents, No Objection Certificate for transportation of the mortal remains to India or local cremation, as per the wish of family of the deceased. Missions/Posts liaise with the employer/sponsor to complete all the formalities and obtain clearance from local authorities for timely dispatch of the mortal remains to

India or dignified local cremation. In the event of non-cooperation of the employer/sponsor, the Missions/Posts take up the matter with the local government authorities to impress upon the employer/sponsor to expedite the formalities. In deserving cases on means and tested basis, the Missions/Posts process the dispatch formalities bearing all the expenditure for transportation of the mortal remains from Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). For payment of compensation, the Missions/Posts assiduously follow up with the employer/sponsor/local authorities to get the admissible legal dues/End Service Benefits of the deceased as per the local Labour laws for disbursement to the legal heirs of the deceased in India. In some case Missions/Posts, if authorized by the family to proceed with the death compensation claim, files death claims in court through panel of lawyers and regularly updates the family on the progress of the case.

(e & f) Government accords utmost priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad and has robust mechanism to monitor working conditions and grievance redressal of Indian workers abroad. Our Missions/Posts abroad from time to time receive various types of complaints from the Indian nationals working abroad and these include delay in payment/non-payment of salaries, retention of passports, unfair working conditions, sub-standard accommodation, extended working hours, ill-treatment/harassment, excessive work, denial of entry/exit permit/renewal of

visa/final exit permit, non-payment of salary and not placing in the job promised etc.

Our Missions and Posts abroad remain vigilant all the time and actively monitor the working conditions of Indians nationals abroad. The Government has established various channels to enable Indian nationals working abroad to reach out to the Mission/Post in case they need any assistance. They can contact the Missions/Posts through walk-in interview, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, grievance redressal portal like MADAD, CPGAMS, and eMigrate, and social media etc. As and when such cases are reported, the Missions/Posts take prompt action in coordination with the employer/sponsor/agent and local authorities and extend all possible assistance to the aggrieved Indian worker. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in Dubai (UAE), Riyadh, Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide guidance and counselling to Indian workers on all matters. There are dedicated Labour Wings in all Indian Missions in Gulf Countries.

Indian Missions/Posts regularly organize Open Houses and Consular Camps in remote areas to get feedback from Indian workers residing in such areas and to address their grievances, if any. The complaints pertaining to employment issues are also taken up with the local labour department and other relevant authorities of the host country for prompt redressal. Based on

MoUs signed with the GCC countries, matters related to welfare and protection of workers are taken up during regular meetings of Joint Working Groups with concerned countries. In addition, such matters are also regularly taken up with respective host governments through diplomatic channels.

Country-wise Emigration Clearance (EC) data from 01-01-2021 to 19-11-2024

Country	Number EC issued
SAUDI ARABIA	5,63,813
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2,12,018
KUWAIT	1,64,017
QATAR	1,32,887
OMAN	94,907
MALAYSIA	33,482
BAHRAIN	31,836
JORDAN	8,982
IRAQ	6,370
LEBANON	666
THAILAND	18
INDONESIA	5
SOUTH SUDAN	2
SUDAN	2
Total	12,49,005

State/UT-wise Emigration Clearance (EC) data from 01-01-2021 to 19-11-2024

Sr. No.	Name of State/UTs	Number EC issued
1.	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	38
2.	ANDHRA PRADESH	55,485
3.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	14
4.	ASSAM	10,167
5.	BIHAR	2,17,335
6.	CHANDIGARH	824
7.	CHHATTISGARH	380
8.	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	12
9.	DAMAN & DIU	67
10.	DELHI	4,999
11.	GOA	1,615
12.	GUJARAT	12,660
13.	HARYANA	4,221
14.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1,347
15.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	15,033
16.	JHARKHAND	14,267
17.	KARNATAKA	19,242
18.	KERALA	60,113
19.	LADAKH	3

20.	LAKSHADWEEP	6
21.	MADHYA PRADESH	3,933
22.	MAHARASHTRA	22,812
23.	MANIPUR	98
24.	MEGHALAYA	32
25.	MIZORAM	3
26.	NAGALAND	13
27.	ODISHA	22,948
28.	PUDUCHERRY	1,120
29.	PUNJAB	39,241
30.	RAJASTHAN	87,388
31.	SIKKIM	14
32.	TAMIL NADU	78,528
33.	TELANGANA	35,505
34.	TRIPURA	3,726
35.	UTTAR PRADESH	4,25,851
36.	UTTARAKHAND	11,143
37.	WEST BENGAL	98,822
	Grand Total	12,49,005
