

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 905

ANSWERED ON- 29/11/2024

SCHEME FOR INDIAN YOUTHS WORKING ABROAD

†905. SHRI RAJEEV RAI

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

(a) whether the number of youths of the country going abroad for employment is constantly increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that many youths are being forced to do work other than the work contracted by them in foreign countries, being paid less than the fixed salary and are also being harassed in various ways;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the concrete steps taken by the Government to provide justice to such youths working abroad;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to implement any such scheme so that the youths of the country are not compelled to go abroad for employment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to g) 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 data regarding migration of such Indian workers to these ECR countries during the last 5 years is as below:

Year	Number of Emigration Clearance granted
2024 (till 19th November)	3,48,629
2023	3,98,317
2022	3,73,425
2021	1,32,675
2020	94,145

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 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 portals 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 counseling 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 for Indian nationals including workers residing in such areas to render consular services including addressing 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 also 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.

Government of India is focused on skill development among Indian nationals including youth going abroad for employment purpose. One such measure, Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is a joint collaborative partnership between MEA and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) which is aimed at enhancing the skill set of potential emigrant workers in line with international standards. The scheme comprises two components. The first one is technical top-up training, involving recognition of prior learning,

assessment and certification, to be provided by MSDE, through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The second one is a one-day training programme on soft skills, called Pre-Departure Orientation and Training (PDOT), to be imparted by MEA in collaboration with NSDC, State Governments and other stakeholders.
