

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 5541
ANSWERED ON- 04/04/2025
FRAUDULENT TRAVEL AGENTS

5541. KUMARI SELJA

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing exploitation of youth by fraudulent travel agents in the country especially in Haryana;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to launch a comprehensive campaign to curb the activities of fraudulent travel agents;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the measures proposed to be taken for the rehabilitation and reintegration of the affected youth upon their return to India, including counselling, education, and employment support?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) Ministry is aware of fraudulent activities by some illegal/unscrupulous recruitment agents/agencies in the country, including that in Haryana.

Ministry comes to know about fraudulent activities of illegal/unscrupulous recruitment agents/agencies in the country, including that in Haryana, as and when a complaint is filed by aggrieved emigrants or their relatives/friends who have been cheated by their employers.

As and when complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are received, such matters are referred to the State police for investigation and prosecution under the relevant legal provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and other legislation in place including that enacted by the State Governments. In the cyber domain, action is also taken against illegal recruiting agents in association with MHA and State Police authorities. Requests to take down social media posts of illegal recruiting agencies from all over India including Haryana have been regularly shared with MHA.

Ministry issues advisories through eMigrate portal, social media handles, and other modes of publicity about the perils of fake job rackets and ways to prevent the same. Till February 2025, a total of 3,281 illegal agents in country including in the State of Haryana, have been notified on the eMigrate portal. The awareness campaign on safe and legal migration through eMigrate portal has been carried out by the Ministry across the country including in Haryana by conducting workshops, trainings, information sessions, digital campaigns for media groups, police officials and law enforcement agencies, local administration, aspiring recruiting agents, entrepreneurs and general public.

Ministry regularly coordinates with the State Governments including Haryana regarding issues of illegal agencies in the field of overseas employment and the ways to address challenges related to enforcement of Emigration Regulations. Videsh Sampark Programme is organized in collaboration with State Governments from time to time. The Ministry regularly organises outreach programs to sensitise various stakeholders about the benefits of safe and legal migration and suggests ways to prevent illegal migration through fake/unregistered recruitment agencies. In addition to the regular information sharing on unregistered recruiting agencies, regular meetings with the State level Nodal Officer are held. Regular workshops & training sessions are held by the Ministry

for law enforcement agencies of the State Governments in which information on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of the Ministry, detection of unlawful content on social media, and case studies of Cyber Scamming are shared with the participants.

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