

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1188

ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2026

EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN WORKERS ABROAD

1188. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of Indian workers and students facing exploitation, detention, wage denial, and racial discrimination in several foreign countries, particularly in the Gulf and Western nations, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the number of complaints received by Indian Missions abroad during the last three years, country-wise;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure legal protection, timely consular access and safe repatriation of affected Indian nationals; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen bilateral labour and migration agreements to safeguard the rights and dignity of**

Indian citizens abroad, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) Details of complaints received from Indian nationals including students and migrant workers abroad in the last three years are given in Annexure-A.

The Government of India accords highest priority to the safety, protection and wellbeing of Indian workers as well as Indian students abroad. There are established channels to enable them to reach out to the Embassy/Consulate in case they need any assistance. They can contact the Embassy/Consulate through walk-in, email, multilingual 24x7 emergency numbers, WhatsApp number, grievance redressal portal like MADAD/CPGRAMS/eMigrate, and social media etc.

There are dedicated Labour Wings for handling such matters, where there is a sizeable number of Indian migrant workers. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras have been set up in key locations such as New Delhi, Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuala Lumpur to provide

guidance and counselling to the Indian workers. In addition, Kshetriya Pravasi Sahayata Kendras (KPSKs) have also been set up in Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Patna and Chandigarh. Similarly, there are dedicated officers handling education/student welfare related matters in the Missions/Posts abroad. 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.

On receipt of any complaint or grievance from Indian workers, the Embassy/Consulate pro-actively takes it up with the concerned Foreign Employer (FE) and, if needed, the work place of the aggrieved worker is also visited. The issues are also taken up with the local Labour Department and other concerned authority of the host country for redressal.

Further, as additional safeguard for protection and safety of the female workers, including domestic sector workers, Government has authorized only State-run Recruiting Agencies (RAs) to recruit Indian female workers holding ECR category passports for overseas employment in the notified 19 ECR Countries through the e-Migrate Portal. Moreover, there is a minimum age criteria of 30 years for

female workers holding ECR category passport for overseas employment to protect them against exploitation.

Indian students travelling abroad are encouraged to reach out to our Missions/Posts both prior to their departure and thereafter upon reaching their Universities with the view to understand the local legal frameworks and the available support systems. Indian Missions/Posts abroad maintain regular contacts with Indian students enrolled in Universities abroad and brief them on challenges and threats, if any, that they may confront during their stay in the foreign lands. Heads of Indian Missions/Posts and other senior Embassy officers also visit foreign Universities and educational institutions in their respective countries of accreditation to regularly interact with Indian students and Indian Students' Associations.

Missions/Posts also reach out to the distressed Indian nationals, including workers and students, who are provided all possible consular assistance, including emergency medical care and boarding/ lodging, whenever required. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has been set up in Indian Missions/ Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals, including workers and students, in distress on a means tested basis in deserving cases. The support

extended under ICWF also includes extending legal assistance, when required.

The Government has established a robust institutional framework to promote safe and legal migration while ensuring welfare and safety and preventing exploitation of Indians abroad, including Indian workers. MoUs/Agreements such as Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs), Labour Mobility and Labour Welfare Agreements signed with the partner countries seek to establish robust frameworks for migrant workers welfare and protection and legal migration and for preventing irregular migration. The Labor and Manpower Cooperation MOUs/Agreements that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower related issues have been signed with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates) and Jordan. Further, to safeguard the specific interests of domestic workers in GCC Countries, agreements on Labor Cooperation for Domestic Sector Workers (DSWs) have been signed with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait. Specific Labour Mobility Partnership Agreement/MOU/MOC have been signed with Denmark, Japan, Portugal, Mauritius, Israel, Taiwan, Malaysia and Russia. Migration and Mobility Partnership

agreements to facilitate mobility of our students, academics, business people, and professionals, have been signed with France, UK, Germany, Australia, Austria, Italy and Denmark.

Annexure-A

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Name of Mission/Post	Number of complaints received from Indian students abroad			Number of complaints received from Indian Workers abroad		
			2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
1	Afghanistan	EOI, Kabul	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Albania	EOI, Tirana	0	0	0	0	2	4
3	Algeria	EOI, Algiers	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Angola	HCI, Luanda	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Argentina	EOI, Buenos Aires	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Armenia	EOI, Yerevan	0	0	0	1	0	2
7	Australia	CGI, Perth	0	0	0	0	0	0
8		CGI Sydney	0	0	0	0	0	0
9		CGI, Brisbane	0	0	1	0	0	0
10		HCI, Canberra	0	0	0	0	0	0
11		CGI Melbourne	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Austria	EOI, Vienna	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Azerbaijan	EOI, Baku	0	0	0	0	0	0

14	Bahrain	EOI, Bahrain	0	0	0	711	603	345
15	Bangladesh	AHCI, Khulna	0	0	0	0	0	0
16		AHCI, Chittagong	0	0	0	0	0	0
17		HCI, Dhaka	0	0	0	0	0	0
18		AHCI, Rajshahi	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Belarus	EOI, Minsk	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	Belgium & Luxembourg	EOI, Brussels	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Belize	EOI, Mexico City	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Bhutan	EOI, Thimphu	0	0	0	0	0	0
23		CGI, Phuentsholing	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Bolivia	EOI, La Paz	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Botswana	HCI, Gaborone	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Brazil	EOI, Brasilia & CGI, Sao Paulo	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Bulgaria	EOI, Sofia	0	0	0	0	0	0

28	Burkina Faso	EOI, Ouagadougou	0	0	0	0	0	1
29	Cabo Verde	EOI, Praia	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Cambodia	EOI, Phnom Penh	0	0	0	207	980	1300
31	Cameroon	HCI, Yaounde	0	0	0	0	1	1
32	Canada	CGI, Toronto	0	0	0	0	0	0
33		HCI, Ottawa	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Chad	EOI, N'Djamena	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Hong Kong	CGI, Hong Kong	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Chile	EOI, Santiago	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Chile	EOI, Santiago	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	China	CGI Shanghai	0	0	0	0	0	0
39		CGI, Guangzhou	1	1	1	0	0	0
40	Colombia	EOI, Bogota	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Cote D'Ivoire	EOI, Abidjan	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Croatia	EOI, Zagreb	0	0	0	0	0	0

43	Cuba	EOI, Havana	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Cyprus	HCI Nicosia	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Czech Republic	EOI, Prague	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Djibouti	EOI Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	Dominican Republic & Haiti	EOI, Santo Domingo	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	DR Congo	EOI, Kinshasa	0	0	0	66	50	33
49	Ecuador	EOI, Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0	0
50		EOI, Quito	0	0	0	0	0	0
51	Egypt	EOI, Cairo	0	0	0	0	1	1
52	Equatorial Guinea	EOI, Malabo	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	Eritrea	EOI, Asmara	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	Estonia	EOI, Tallinn	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	Eswatini	HCI, Mbabane	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	Ethiopia	EOI, Addis Ababa	0	0	0	29	73	54
57	Fiji	HCI, Suva	0	0	0	0	0	0
58	Finland	EOI, Helsinki	0	0		0	0	0

59	France	EOI, Paris	2021-2024: 779		97	0	0	0
60		CGI, Marseille	0	0	0	0	0	0
61		CGI, Saint Denis, Reunion Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
62	Gabon	HCI, Libreville	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	Georgia	EOI, Tbilisi	0	0	20	0	0	0
64	Germany	CGI, Frankfurt	0	0	0	0	0	0
65		CGI, Hamburg	0	0	0	0	2	0
66		CGI, Munich	0	6	6	0	0	0
67	Greece	EOI, Athens	0	0	0	0	0	25
68	Guatemala	EOI, Guatemala City	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	Guyana	HCI, Georgetown	0	0	0	1	4	14
70	Iceland	EOI, Reykjavik	0	0	0	0	0	0
71	Indonesia	CGI, Medan	0	0	0	0	0	0
72		CGI, Bali	0	0	0	0	0	0
73		Eol, Jakarta	0	0	0	0	0	0

74	Iraq	EOI, Baghdad	0	0	0	15	5	0
75		CGI, Erbil	0	0	0	0	0	4
76	Ireland	EOI, Dublin	0	0	0	0	0	0
77	Italy	EOI, Rome	6	5	1	0	0	0
78		CGI, Milan	0	1	1	0	0	0
79	Jamaica	HCI, Kingston	0	0	0	0	0	0
80	Japan	CGI, Fukuoka	0	0	0	0	0	0
81		EOI, Tokyo	0	0	0	0	0	0
82		CGI, Osaka-Kobe	0	0	0	0	0	0
83	Jordan	EOI, Amman	0	0	0	0	0	0
84	Kazakhstan	EOI, Astana	0	0	0	0	0	0
85		ROI, Almaty	0	0	0	0	0	0
86	Kenya	AHCI, Mombasa	0	0	0	0	0	0
87		HCI, Nairobi	0	0	0	0	0	0
88	Kuwait	EOI, Kuwait	0	0	0	7820	3728	4081
89	Kyrgyzstan	EOI, Bishkek	7	5	14	75	90	105
90	Lao PDR	EOI, Vientiane	0	0	0	252	592	1488
91	Latvia	EOI, Riga	0	0	0	0	0	4

92	Lebanon	EOI, Beirut	0	0	0	0	0	0
93	Liberia	EOI, Monrovia	0	0	0	2	3	3
94	Libya	EOI, Tripoli	0	0	0	0	21	27
95	Lithuania	EOI, Vilnius	0	0	0	0	0	0
96	Madagascar	Eol Antananarivo	0	0	0	0	0	0
97	Malawi	HCI, Lolongwe	0	0	0	0	1	3
98	Malaysia	HCI, Kuala Lumpur	0	1	1	1648	2794	2532
99	Maldives	HCI, Male'	0	0	0	549	1190	855
100	Mali	Eol Bamako	0	0	0	0	0	0
101	Malta	HCI, Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0
102	Mauritania	Eol, Nouakchott	0	0	0	0	0	1
103	Mauritius	HCI, Port Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0
104	Mexico	EOI, Mexico City	0	0	0	0	0	0
105	Mongolia	EOI, Ulaanbaatar	0	0	0	0	0	0
106	Morocco	EOI, Rabat	0	0	0	0	0	0

107	Mozambique	HCI, Maputo	0	0	0	0	0	0
108	Myanmar	CGI, Sittwe	0	0	0	0	0	0
109		CGI, Mandalay	0	0	0	0	0	0
110		EOI, Yangoon	0	0	0	0	0	0
111	Namibia	HCI, Windhoek	0	0	0	0	0	0
112	Nepal	CGI, Birgunj	0	1	0	1	6	12
113		EOI, Kathmandu	0	0	0	0	0	0
114	New Zealand	HCI, Wellington	0	0	0	119	0	0
115		CGI, Auckland	0	0	0	0	0	0
116	Niger	EOI, Niamey	0	0	0	0	0	0
117	Nigeria	HCI, Abuja	0	0	0	0	0	0
118		CGI, Lagos	0	0	0	0	0	0
119	Norway	EOI, Oslo	0	0	0	0	0	0
120	Pakistan	HCI, Islamabad	0	0	0	0	0	0
121	Palestine	ROI, Ramallah	0	0	0	0	0	0
122	Panama	EOI, Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0

123	Papua New Guinea	HCI, Port Moresby	0	0	0	0	0	0
124	Paraguay	EOI, Asuncion	0	0	0	0	0	0
125	Peru	EOI, Lima	0	0	0	0	0	0
126	Poland	EOI, Warsaw	0	0	0	0	0	0
127	Qatar	EOI, Doha	0	0	0	455	179	186
128	Republic of Congo	EOI, Brazzaville	0	0	0	0	0	0
129	Republic of Guinea	EOI, Conakry	0	0	0	0	0	11
130	Republic of Korea	EOI, Seoul	0	0	0	0	0	0
131	Romania	EOI, Bucharest	0	0	0	0	0	0
132	Russia	EOI, Moscow	66	74	196	0	0	0
133		CGI, Vladivostok	0	0	0	0	0	0
134		CGI, Saint Petersburg	2	4	5	1	1	5
135	Rwanda	HCI, Kigali	0	0	0	0	0	0
136	Sao Tome and Principe	EOI, Sao Tome	0	0	0	0	0	0

137	Saudi Arabia	EOI, Riyadh	0	0	0	2279	2223	2198
138		CGI, Jeddah	0	0	0	798	630	679
139	Senegal	EOI, Dakar	0	0	0	0	0	0
140	Serbia	EOI, Belgrade	0	0	0	3	12	34
141	Seychelles	HCI, Victoria, Mahe	0	0	0	58	42	46
142	Sierra Leone	HCI, Freetown	0	0	0	3	18	27
143	Singapore	HCI, Singapore	0	0	0	0	0	0
144	Slovak Republic	EOI, Bratislava	0	0	0	8	10	28
145	Slovenia	EOI, Ljubljana	0	0	0	0	0	0
146	South Africa	CGI, Johannesburg	0	0	0	0	0	0
147		CGI, Cape Town	0	0	0	0	0	0
148		CGI, Durban	0	0	0	0	0	0
149		HCI, Pretoria	0	0	0	0	0	0
150	South Sudan	EOI, Juba	0	0	0	0	1	3
151	Spain	CGI, Barcelona	0	0	0	0	0	0

152		HCI, Colombo	0	0	0	108	221	417
153	Sri Lanka	CGI, Hambantota	0	0	0	0	0	0
154		AHCI, Kandy	0	0	0	0	1	1
155		CGI, Jaffna	0	0	0	0	0	0
156	Sudan	EOI, Khartoum	0	0	0	0	0	0
157	Sultanate of Oman	EOI, Muscat	0	0	0	4281	3114	2345
158	Suriname	EOI, Paramaribo	0	0	0	0	0	0
159	Sweden	EOI, Stockholm	0	0	0	0	0	0
160	Switzerland	CGI, Geneva	0	0	0	0	0	0
161	Principality of Liechtenstein	EOI, Berne	1	0	0	0	0	0
162	Syria	EOI, Damascus	0	0	0	0	0	0
163	Taiwan	India Taipei Association	0	0	0	0	0	0
164	Tajikistan	EOI, Dushanbe	0	0	0	1	3	10
165	Tanzania	CGI, Zanzibar	0	0	0	0	0	0

166		HCI, Dar-es-salaam	0	0	0	0	0	0
167	Thailand	EOI, Bangkok	0	0	0	0	0	0
168		COI, Chiangmai	0	0	0	0	0	0
169	The Netherlands	EOI, The Hague	0	0	0	0	0	0
170	Timor Leste	EOI, Dili	0	0	0	0	0	0
171	Togo	EOI, Lome	0	0	0	0	0	0
172	Tunisia	EOI, Tunis	0	0	0	0	0	48
173	Turkiye	CGI, Istanbul	0	0	1	5	2	3
174		EOI, Ankara	0	1	0	0	1	0
175	Turkmenistan	EOI, Ashgabat	0	0	0	0	0	0
176	UAE	EOI, Abu Dhabi	0	0	0	549	387	411
177		CGI, Dubai	0	0	0	2928	3030	3727
178	Uganda & Burundi	HCI, Kampala	0	0	0	6	1	3
179	Ukraine	EOI, Kyiv	0	0	2	0	0	6

180	United Kingdom	HCI, London	0	0	0	0	0	0
181		CGI, Edinburgh	0	0	0	0	1	1
182	Uruguay	EOI, Buenos Aires	0	0	0	0	0	0
183	USA	CGI, Atlanta	0	0	5	0	0	0
184		CGI, New York	19	3	1	0	0	0
185		CGI, Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0
186		CGI, San Francisco	0	2	7	0	0	0
187		CGI, Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0
188		CGI, Houston	0	0	0	0	0	0
189		PMI, New York	0	0	0	0	0	0
190	Uzbekistan	EOI, Tashkent	0	0	0	0	0	0
191	Venezuela	EOI, Caracas	0	0	0	0	0	0
192	Vietnam	CGI, Ho Chi Minh City	0	0	0	0	0	0
193		EOI, Hanoi	0	0	0	7	21	4
194	Yemen	EOI, Riyadh	0	0	0	0	0	0

195	Zambia	HCI, Lusaka	0	0	0	4	12	9
196	Zimbabwe	EOI, Harare	0	0	0	0	0	0
