

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1217
ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2026
REGULATION OF FAKE IMMIGRATION AGENTS

1217. SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing incidents of fake immigration agents and fraudulent overseas job/visa consultants cheating Indian citizens across the country, including Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of complaints received and cases registered against such agents during the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(c) the steps taken to identify, blacklist and prosecute unauthorised agents, including action taken under the Emigration Act in coordination with State Police and other agencies; and

(d) whether the government has undertaken any steps to strengthen public awareness, grievance redressal and prevention mechanisms for protecting emigrant workers, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) Government has been made aware of instances where dubious entities involved in fake recruitment job offers have lured Indian nationals including youth, mostly through social media channels for overseas employment to various countries. Ministry comes to know about such fraudulent activities of illegal/unscrupulous recruitment agents in the country as and when a complaint is filed by the aggrieved emigrants or their relatives/friends/family members, who have been cheated by their employers as these Indian nationals proceed abroad on their own volition through fraudulent/unscrupulous recruitment agents and through illegal channels.

As per Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983, no person/agency can function as Recruiting Agent (RA) without a valid Registration Certificate (RC) issued by the Registering Authority, i.e., Protector General of Emigrants (PGE). As and when complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are received, including from Andhra Pradesh, 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 legislations in place. 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 Andhra Pradesh have been regularly shared with MHA.

Data regarding the number of complaints about illegal migration received from the States/UTs and action taken during the last three years is given in Annexure-A.

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 December 2025, a list of 3,505 unregistered agents, against whom grievances have been received, has been published on the eMigrate portal to caution the prospective emigrants. The awareness campaign on safe and legal migration through eMigrate portal has been carried out by the Ministry across the country 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. During these sessions awareness on emigration regulations, schemes beneficial for emigrants like Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT), eMigrate portal and various advisories issued by Indian Embassies are brought to the notice of all stakeholders.

Ministry regularly coordinates with the State Governments regarding issues of illegal recruiting agencies and the ways to address challenges related to enforcement of emigration rules and regulations. Videsh Sampark Programme is organized in collaboration with State Governments from time to time. The Ministry regularly organises such 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. Further, workshops & training sessions are held by the Ministry for the 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 is shared with the participants.

Data regarding complaints about illegal migration and follow-up action [2023 – 2025]

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Complaints			ATR Submitted/FIR Registered by State/UT Police			Number of Cases in which request for issue of prosecution sanction after investigation received			Number of Prosecution Sanctions issued		
		2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	445	602	448	5	11	19	1	0	0	1	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Bihar	6	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	3	9	80	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0

7.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	4	92	153	0	0	34	0	11	09	0	11	09
10.	Goa	5	1	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Gujarat	2	9	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
12.	Haryana	4	2	33	0	0	15	0	1	0	0	1	0
13.	Himachal Pradesh	4	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
15.	Jharkhand	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Karnataka	32	33	61	6	8	0	3	0	0	3	0	0
17.	Kerala	110	277	238	87	197	158	7	1	0	7	1	15

18.	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Maharashtra	6	14	22	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
22.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	2	0	4	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Odisha	0	5	7	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	56	18	80	0	38	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Rajasthan	35	87	97	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	0	0

30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	152	106	99	7	64	52	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
32.	Telangana	132	96	111	35	17	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Tripura	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Uttarakhand	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Uttar Pradesh	0	6	31	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	West Bengal	5	10	35	2	2	12	0	0	2	0	1	1	1
	Total	1,006	1378	1541	147	343	465	15	14	12	15	14	29	
