

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2370

ANSWERED ON 13/02/2026

INDIAN YOUTH DUPED BY TRAVEL AGENTS

2370. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing number of Indian youth, particularly from Punjab and other northern States, being duped by unscrupulous travel and immigration agents who send them abroad through illegal “donkey routes” or fraudulent visas, resulting in their detention and deportation by foreign authorities;

(b) if so, the number of such youth sent through such fraudulent ways and routes;

(c) the number of Indian nationals deported from foreign countries in the last five years, country-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether any assessment has been made on victims of such illegal agents, if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of FIRs registered and prosecutions launched against illegal travel immigration agents in Punjab and other major source States over the last three years, including those booked under anti human smuggling laws; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed by the Government publicise the list of blacklisted/unauthorised agents?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) Government has been made aware of instances where dubious entities involved in fake recruitment job offers have lured Indian nationals including from Punjab and other northern States, mostly through social media channels for overseas employment to various countries. Such fraudulent activities of illegal/unscrupulous recruitment agents in the country come to light as and when a

complaint is filed by the aggrieved emigrants or their relatives/friends/family members, who have been cheated, since these Indian nationals proceed abroad on their own volition through fraudulent/unscrupulous recruitment agents and through illegal channels. Specific data on the number of Indian nationals who have attempted such irregular migration, is not available.

Most of the foreign Governments do not provide information on illegal stay by foreigners in their countries, except when they are under orders of deportation and travel document/nationality verification is required. The procedure followed for deportation of foreign nationals also varies from country to country. Some countries do not arrest the deportee but keep them in detention/deportation centers until deportation. Information about arrest/detention and deportation is not shared with Indian Missions/Posts and the deportation is done directly by the host Government if the deportee has a valid Indian travel document. Indian Missions/Posts are contacted by the host Governments only in such cases where nationality verification and

issuance of Emergency Certificate (EC) to the deportee is required. However, based on information available with our Missions abroad, country-wise and year-wise data of Indian nationals deported for various reasons in the last five years, is given in Annexure-A.

(d to f) 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, 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.

State-wise details of complaints registered and action taken by law enforcement agencies against unregistered/illegal recruiting agents during the last three years are given in Annexure-B.

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 January 2026, 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.

The Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) in the Ministry of External Affairs through 16 Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) across India, 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. 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 ON INDIAN NATIONALS DEPORTED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Name of the Mission/Post	Number of Indian nationals deported from foreign countries				
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	<i>Afghanistan</i>	<i>EOI, Kabul</i>	0	0	0	0	0
2	<i>Albania</i>	<i>EOI, Tirana</i>	0	0	0	0	0
3	<i>Algeria</i>	<i>EOI, Algiers</i>	0	0	0	1	2
4	<i>Angola</i>	<i>HCI, Luanda</i>	0	0	0	0	0
5	<i>Argentina</i>	<i>EOI, Buenos Aires</i>	0	0	0	0	0
6	<i>Armenia</i>	<i>EOI, Yerevan</i>	0	0	0	0	0
7	<i>Australia</i>	<i>HCI, Canberra</i>	0	0	9	0	0
8		<i>CGI, Melbourne</i>	0	0	0	0	0
9		<i>CGI, Sydney</i>	0	2	7	28	16
10		<i>CGI, Perth</i>	0	0	0	0	0

11		CGI, Brisbane	0	0	0	1	3
12	Austria	EOI, Vienna	0	0	0	0	0
13	Azerbaijan	EOI, Baku	0	0	0	0	0
14	Bahrain	EOI, Bahrain	0	0	0	0	0
15	Bangladesh	HCI, Dhaka	0	0	0	0	0
16		AHCI, Chittagong	0	0	0	0	0
17		AHCI, Khulna	0	0	0	0	0
18		AHCI, Rajshahi	0	0	0	0	0
19		AHCI, Sylhet	0	0	0	0	0
20	Belarus	EOI, Minsk	0	0	0	0	0
21	Belgium	EOI, Brussels	0	10	19	5	4
22	Belize	EOI, Mexico city	0	0	0	0	0

23	Bhutan	EOI, Thimphu	0	0	0	0	1
24		CGI, Phuntsholing	0	0	0	0	0
25	Bolivia	EOI, La Paz	0	0	0	0	0
26	Botswana	HCI, Gaborone	0	0	0	0	0
27	Brazil	EOI, Brasilia	0	0	0	0	0
28		CGI, Sao Paulo	0	0	0	0	0
29	Bulgaria	EOI, Sofia	0	0	0	0	0
30	Burkina Faso	EOI, Ouagadougou	0	0	0	0	0
31	Cabo Verde	EOI, Praia	0	0	0	0	0
32	Cambodia	EOI, Phnom Penh	0	0	0	0	0
33	Cameroon	HCI, Yaounde	0	0	0	0	0
34	Canada	HCI, Ottawa	3	26	48	30	48

35		CGI, Toronto	27	38	60	63	198
36		CGI, Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0
37	Chad	EOI, N'Djamena	0	0	0	0	0
38	Chile	EOI, Santiago	0	0	0	0	0
39	China	EOI, Beijing	5	5	3	4	7
40		CGI, Shanghai	3	1	2	1	1
41		CGI, Guangzhou	1	6	21	26	8
42		CGI, Hong Kong	123	166	207	201	300
43	Colombia	EOI, Bogota	0	0	0	60	0
44	Comoros	EOI, Antananarivo	0	0	0	0	0
45	Cote D'Ivoire	EOI, Abidjan	0	0	0	0	0
46	Croatia	EOI, Zagreb	0	0	0	0	0
47	Cuba	EOI, Havana	0	0	0	0	0

48	Cyprus	EOI, Nicosia	46	96	173	183	163
49	Czech Republic	EOI, Prague	0	0	0	0	0
50	Democratic Republic of Congo	EOI, Kinshasa	0	0	0	0	0
51	Denmark	EOI, Copenhagen	0	0	0	0	0
52	Djibouti	EOI, Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0
53	Dominican Republic	EOI, Santo Domingo	0	0	0	0	0
54	Ecuador	EOI, Quito	0	0	0	0	0
55	Egypt	EOI, Cairo	0	0	2	0	0
56	Equatorial Guinea	EOI, Malabo	0	0	0	0	0
57	Eritrea	EOI, Asmara	0	0	0	0	0

58	Estonia	EOI, Tallinn	0	0	0	0	0
59	Eswatini	HCI, Mbabane	0	0	0	0	0
60	Ethiopia	EOI, Addis Ababa	0	0	0	0	0
61	Fiji	HCI, Suva	0	0	0	0	0
62	Finland	EOI, Helsinki	0	0	0	0	0
63	France	EOI, Paris	0	0	0	0	0
64		CGI, Marseille	0	0	0	0	5
65		CGI, Saint Denis (Reunion Island)	0	0	0	1	0
66	Gabon	HCI, Libreville	0	0	0	0	0
67	Georgia	EOI, Tbilisi	0	0	0	0	155
68	Germany	EOI, Berlin	0	0	0	79	16
69		CGI, Frankfurt	0	0	0	0	0
70		CGI, Hamburg	0	0	0	0	0

71		CGI, Munich	0	0	0	0	0
72	Ghana	HCI, Accra	0	0	0	0	0
73	Greece	EOI, Athens	0	0	0	0	0
74	Guatemala	EOI, Guatemala City	0	0	0	0	4
75	Guyana	HCI, Georgetown	0	0	0	11	5
76	Hungary	EOI, Budapest	0	0	0	0	0
77	Iceland	EOI, Reykjavik	0	0	0	0	0
78	Indonesia	EOI, Jakarta	0	0	0	0	11
79		CGI, Medan	0	11	0	0	3
80		CGI, Bali	5	0	20	20	10
81	Iran	EOI, Tehran	0	0	0	0	0
82		CGI, Bandar	0	0	0	0	0

		Abbas					
83		CGI, Zahedan	0	0	0	0	0
84	Iraq	EOI, Baghdad	0	0	0	0	0
85		CGI, Erbil	0	0	0	0	0
86	Ireland	EOI, Dublin	0	0	0	2	5
87	Israel	EOI, Tel Aviv	0	0	0	0	0
88	Italy	EOI, Rome	1	2	2	6	9
89		CGI, Milan	0	0	0	0	0
90	Jamaica	HCI, Kingston	0	0	0	0	0
91	Japan	EOI, Tokyo	23	13	16	11	12
92		CGI, Osaka Kobe	0	0	0	0	0
93		CGI, Fukuoka	0	0	0	0	0
94	Jordan	EOI, Amman	24	28	59	79	61
95	Kazakhstan	EOI, Astana	0	0	0	0	0

96		ROI, Almaty	0	0	0	0	0
97	Kenya	HCI, Nairobi	0	0	1	1	1
98		AHCI, Mombasa	0	0	0	0	0
99	Kuwait	EOI, Kuwait	0	0	0	0	0
100	Kyrgyzstan	EOI, Bishkek	0	0	0	0	0
101	Lao PDR	EOI, Vientiane	0	0	0	0	0
102	Latvia	EOI, Riga	0	0	0	0	0
103	Lebanon	EOI, Beirut	2	3	1	5	2
104	Liberia	EOI, Monrovia	0	0	0	0	0
105	Libya	EOI, Tripoli	0	0	0	0	0
106	Lithuania	EOI, Vilnius	0	0	0	0	4
107	Madagascar	EOI, Antananarivo	0	0	0	0	0
108	Malawi	HCI, Lilongwe	0	0	1	0	0

109	Malaysia	HCI, Kuala Lumpur	1439	1188	1182	1259	1675
110	Maldives	HCI, Male	16	30	117	194	150
111	Mali	EOI, Bamako	0	0	0	0	0
112	Malta	EOI, Malta	0	0	0	0	3
113	Mauritania	EOI, Nouakchott	0	0	0	0	0
114	Mauritius	HCI, Port Louis	0	0	0	0	0
115	Mexico	EOI, Mexico City	0	0	0	0	0
116	Mongolia	EOI, Ulaanbaatar	0	0	0	0	0
117	Morocco	EOI, Rabat	0	0	0	0	0
118	Mozambique	HCI, Maputo	0	0	0	0	0
119	Myanmar	EOI, Yangoon	0	338	89	148	1,605
120		CGI, Mandalay	0	0	0	0	0

121		CGI, Sittwe	0	0	0	0	0
122	Namibia	HCI, Windhoek	0	0	0	0	0
123	Nepal	EOI, Kathmandu	0	0	0	0	0
124		CGI, Birgunj	0	0	0	0	0
125	Netherlands	EOI, The Hague	0	10	58	11	3
126	New Zealand	EOI, Wellington	9	20	19	20	6
127		CGI, Auckland	0	0	0	0	0
128	Niger	EOI, Niamey	0	0	0	0	0
129	Nigeria	HCI, Abuja	0	0	0	0	1
130		AHCI, Lagos	0	0	0	0	0
131	North Korea	EOI, Pyongyang	0	0	0	0	0
132	Norway	EOI, Oslo	0	0	0	0	0
133	Oman	EOI, Muscat	50	57	47	25	25
134	Pakistan	HCI, Islamabad	0	0	0	0	0

135	Palestine	ROI, Ramallah	0	0	0	0	0
136	Panama	EOI, Panama	0	0	0	215	79
137	Papua New Guinea	HCI, Port Moresby	0	0	1	1	0
138	Paraguay	EOI, Asuncion	0	0	0	0	0
139	Peru	EOI, Lima	0	0	0	0	0
140	Phillipines	EOI, Manila	0	0	0	0	0
141	Poland	EOI, Warsaw	14	63	24	14	12
142	Qatar	EOI, Doha	803	1,170	1,414	1,136	796
143	Republic of Congo	EOI, Brazzaville	0	0	0	0	0
144	Republic of Guinea	EOI, Conakry	0	0	0	0	0
145	Romania	EOI, Bucharest	0	0	0	0	0
146	Russia	EOI, Moscow	0	0	0	35	284

147		CGI, St. Petersburg	0	0	0	0	0
148		CGI, Vladivostok	0	0	0	0	1
149		CGI, Kazan	0	0	0	0	0
150		CGI, Yekaterinaburg	0	0	0	0	0
151	Rwanda	HCI, Kigali	0	0	0	0	0
152	Sao Tome and Principe	EOI, Sao Tome and Principe	0	0	0	0	0
153	Saudi Arabia	EOI, Riyadh	10264	28056	29592	5235	4335
154		CGI, Jeddah	12104	6746	7542	8831	8921
155	Senegal	EOI, Dakar	0	0	0	0	0
156	Serbia	EOI, Belgrade	7	68	2	5	10
157	Seychelles	HCI, Victoria, Mahe	0	0	0	0	0

158	Sierra Leone	EOI, Freetown	0	0	0	0	0
159	Singapore	HCI, Singapore	22	16	21	13	15
160	Slovakia	EOI, Bratislava	12	2	0	8	27
161	Slovenia	EOI, Ljubljana	0	0	0	0	0
162	South Africa	HCI, Pretoria	0	0	0	0	0
163		CGI Johanesburg	0	0	0	0	0
164		CGI, Cape Town	0	0	0	0	1
165		CGI, Durban	0	0	0	0	0
166	South Korea	EOI, Seoul	5	7	4	0	0
167	South Sudan	EOI, Juba	0	0	0	0	0
168	Spain	EOI, Madrid	0	0	0	0	0
169		CGI, Barcelona	0	0	0	0	0
170	Sri Lanka	HCI, Colombo	0	0	0	0	0

171		AHCI, Kandy	0	0	0	0	0
172		CGI, Jaffna	0	0	0	0	0
173		CGI, Hambantota	0	0	0	0	0
174	Sudan	EOI, Khartoum	0	0	0	0	0
175	Suriname	EOI, Paramaribo	0	0	0	0	0
176	Sweden	EOI, Stockholm	3	1	27	16	13
177	Switzerland	EOI, Bern	0	0	0	0	0
178		CGI, Geneva	0	0	0	0	0
179	Syria	EOI, Damascus	0	0	0	0	0
180	Taiwan	India Taipei Association	0	0	0	0	0
181	Tajikistan	EOI, Dushanbe	0	0	0	0	0
182	Tanzania	HCI, Dar-e- Salaam	0	0	0	0	0

183		CGI, Zanzibar	0	0	0	0	0
184	Thailand	EOI, Bangkok	0	0	0	0	0
185		COI, Chiangmai	0	0	0	0	0
186	Timor Leste	EOI, Dili	0	0	0	0	0
187	Togo	EOI, Lome	0	0	0	0	0
188	Trinidad & Tobago	HCI, Port of Spain	0	0	0	0	0
189	Tunisia	EOI, Tunis	0	3	2	0	0
190	Turkiye	EOI, Ankara	15	47	23	10	3
191		CGI, Istanbul	0	0	0	0	0
192	Turkmenistan	EOI, Ashgabat	0	0	0	0	0
193	UAE	EOI, Abu Dhabi	358	587	666	899	1,662
194		CGI, Dubai	876	1,203	2,841	5,221	7,896
195	Uganda	HCI, Kampala	0	0	0	0	0

196	Ukraine	EOI, Kyiv	21	13	11	5	5
197	United Kingdom	HCI, London	0	0	0	0	0
198		CGI, Birmingham	0	0	0	0	0
199		CGI, Edinburgh	0	0	0	0	0
200		CGI, Manchester	0	0	0	0	0
201		CGI, Belfast	0	0	0	0	0
202	Uruguay	EOI, Buenos Aires	0	0	0	0	0
203	USA	EOI, Washington	805	862	617	1,368	3414 (till mid Dec 2025)
204		CGI, New York	16	11	18	26	47
205		CGI, Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
206		CGI, Atlanta	14	10	5	14	31

207		CGI, Houston	29	32	14	42	234
208		CGI, San Fransisco	18	43	19	17	49
209		CGI, Seattle	0	0	0	3	31
210		CGI, Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0
211	Uzbekistan	EOI, Tashkent	0	0	0	0	0
212	Venezuela	EOI, Caracas	0	0	0	14	0
213	Vietnam	EOI, Hanoi	0	0	0	0	0
214		CGI, Ho Chi Minh City	0	0	0	0	0
215	Yemen	EOI, Riyadh	0	0	0	0	0
216	Zambia	HCI, Lusaka	0	0	0	0	0
217	Zimbabwe	EOI, Harare	0	0	0	0	0

Annexure-B

Data regarding data on action taken on unauthorized/illegal recruiting agents [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	9	0	11	9
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
19.	Lakshadweep	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
21.	Maharashtra	6	14	22	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
22.	Manipur	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
24.	Mizoram	2	0	4	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
25.	Nagaland	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
27.	Puducherry	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
29.	Rajasthan	35	87	97	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	0
30.	Sikkim	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
32.	Telangana	132	96	111	35	17	47	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Tripura	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Uttarakhand	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Uttar Pradesh	0	6	31	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	West Bengal	5	10	35	2	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1,006	1378	1541	147	343	465	15	14	10	15	14	28
