

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.171
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2016**

SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS

***171. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of countries with whom India has signed Social Security Agreements (SSAs);**
- (b) the benefits derived by Indians abroad under these agreements signed with different countries;**
- (c) whether some countries have proposed to sign such agreements with India on reciprocal basis to help Indian workers in these countries; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such proposals in the pipeline?**

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)**

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 171 REGARDING 'SOCIAL
SECURITY AGREEMENTS' FOR ANSWER ON 09.03.2016**

(a) As on date, India has signed Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with 18 countries. They are Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Luxembourg, France, South Korea, Netherlands, Hungary, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Norway, Canada, Japan, Austria, Portugal and Australia.

(b) Bilateral social security agreements protect the interests of Indian professionals, skilled workers working abroad by providing the following benefits:

- Avoiding making double social security contributions: Once an SSA is signed between India and a foreign country, it exempts the Indian worker (*working on short term contracts abroad*) from making a social security contribution in that foreign country. This exemption is provided only if the Indian worker is covered under the social security system of India and continues to pay his/her contribution during the period of overseas contract.
- Easy remittance of benefits (Exportability): An SSA between India and a foreign country enables the Indian worker/professional to remit his/her accumulated social security contribution made in a foreign country, in case of relocation to India/third country.
- Aggregating the contribution periods (in two countries) to prevent loss of benefits (Totalization): An SSA allows aggregating residency periods of social security contribution made by the Indian worker / professional in India and the foreign country to qualify for retirement benefits.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. All the SSAs are on reciprocal basis. Six proposals are in the pipeline i.e. with Spain, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Russia, Cyprus and USA.
