

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1765
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2016**

ICWF

**1765. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
 SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
 SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of Indians emigrated on working visa during each of the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof, country-wise;**
- (b) the details of the funds spent out of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for carrying out welfare activities for overseas Indian citizens particularly for those who were in distress during the said period, country-wise; and**
- (c) the other steps taken by the Government to ensure safe working environment and to protect the rights of Indian workers in other countries?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

- (a) Information regarding Indian workers holding ECR Passports, going for overseas employment to 18 notified Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries (namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen), is maintained by this Ministry. Details of the number of Indians emigrated on working visa to these countries during each of the last three years and the current year (as on 30.06.2016) is at Annexure-I.**
- (b) A statement showing country-wise, in 18 ECR countries, details of the funds spent out of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for carrying out welfare activities for overseas Indian citizens is at Annexure-II.**
- (c) Whenever the Indian Missions are approached by any Indian national in distress, the same is followed up, at various levels, with the authorities concerned in the Governments of the respective countries.**

Government of India has signed MoUs with 6 Gulf countries, namely UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. As per these MoUs, the host country will take measures for protection and welfare of the workers in organized sector. The recruitment and terms of employment will be in conformity with the laws of both the countries.

These MOUs are renewed / signed afresh, from time to time, during which process any modifications are duly considered for inclusion.

The Government of India has set up Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in all the Indian Missions/Consulates abroad to meet contingency expenditure incurred by them for carrying out various welfare activities for overseas Indian citizens who are in distress.

The Ministry has set up a 24X7 Helpline ‘Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC)’ in Gurgaon, Haryana which provides information and guidance on all matters and problems pertaining to overseas employment of Indian nationals. Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) set up in Dubai by Embassy of India, in UAE, provides guidance and counseling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers in UAE. Four new Indian Workers Resource Centres (IWRCs) have been approved for setting up in Riyadh, Jeddah, Sharjah and Kuala Lumpur. Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals, have been set up in Malaysia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These shelter homes provide free boarding and lodging to overseas Indians in distress pending their repatriation.

Government of India have also started 24x7 Helpline-‘*Madad*’- for lodging the grievances of the emigrants, which are attended to on priority basis.

ANNEXURE-I**INDIANS EMIGRATED ON WORKING VISA DURING EACH OF THE LAST
THREE YEARS AND THE CURRENT YEAR**

S. No.	Country	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Upto 30-06-2016)
1	Afghanistan	153	127	70	0
2	Bahrain	17269	14220	15610	6670
3	Indonesia	38	29	6	01
4	Iraq	6577	3054	1	0
5	Jordan	1462	2133	2043	1235
6	Kuwait	70072	80419	66523	39721
7	Lebanon	281	313	341	135
8	Libya	293	122	0	0
9	Malaysia	22388	22926	20895	5008
10	Oman	63398	51318	84981	37643
11	Qatar	78367	75935	59269	15870
12	Saudi Arabia	354169	329937	306054	108859
13	Sudan	144	255	28	0
14	Syria	10	0	0	0
15	Thailand	15	53	10	01
16	U. A. E.	202016	224033	225314	80695
17	Yemen	3	4	1	0
18	South Sudan	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		816655	804878	781146	295838

ANNEXURE-II

FUNDS SPENT COUNTRY-WISE, IN 18 ECR COUNTRIES, OUT OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND (ICWF) FOR CARRYING OUT WELFARE ACTIVITIES FOR OVERSEAS INDIAN CITIZENS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS AND THE CURRENT YEAR.

(Amount in Indian Rupees)

SN	Country	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Upto15-07-2016)
1	Afghanistan	1,45,759	2,86,144	12,95,496	1,71,619
2	Bahrain	15,67,448	23,82,454	28,50,598	9,24,957
3	Indonesia	5,29,964	3,43,347	4,65,901	1,08,070
4	Iraq	6,85,958	30,97,21,165	3,27,26,567	3,65,582
5	Jordan	4,01,283	3,09,352	2,86,116	10,93,670
6	Kuwait	90,37,045	90,94,236	61,06,566	33,59,640
7	Lebanon	30,219	1,32,118	6,50,583	4,19,552
8	Libya	3,49,470	93,70,862	15,09,750	27,386
9	Malaysia	91,40,531	2,37,96,137	1,59,05,176	3,16,66,573
10	Oman	6,98,14,871	1,11,28,456	95,09,730	88,28,881
11	Qatar	33,50,623	38,86,447	85,85,479	51,05,151
12	Saudi Arabia	4,80,43,405	3,16,79,258	2,75,67,790	1,88,01,871
13	Sudan	1,10,925	Nil	Nil	Nil
14	Syria	Nil	Nil	55,881	1,69,033
15	Thailand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16	U. A. E.	9,58,29,176	33,98,12,771	20,44,38,364	3,09,02,327
17	Yemen	1,22,756	11,98,731	2,17,86,607	2,77,690
18	South Sudan	Nil	Nil	Nil	*Nil

***Figures related to the recent Operation Sankat Mochan for evacuation from South Sudan are not included.**
