



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO.1299 NATIONALISATION OF MOBILE PHONE SECTOR IN SAUDI ARABIA

May 05, 2016

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1299
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.05.2016

NATIONALISATION OF MOBILE PHONE SECTOR IN SAUDI ARABIA

1299. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has taken note of the recent decision of the Labour Ministry in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to fully nationalize mobile phone retail sector in six months as a fallout of the dip in oil revenue;
- (b) whether with many Indians working in Saudi Arabia mostly from Kerala, India has assessed the impact of this decision of the Saudi authorities rendering many Indians jobless; and
- (c) whether Indians in large numbers are employed in Saudi Arabia in mobile retail outlets which have been served notice to provide jobs for Saudi youths?

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

(a) to (c) As reported by Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, the Government of Saudi Arabia has decided to fully nationalize its mobile phone retail sector. However, no complaint from the affected Indian nationals has been received, nor the local Government has provided any data of the expatriate community on the basis of nationality and profession.

Recently Government has signed an Agreement with the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the protection of General Category Workers from India. This Agreement inter alia seeks to ensure that the welfare and rights of General Category Workers employed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are promoted

and protected in accordance with the applicable laws and to facilitate the expeditious settlement of labour contract violation cases and other cases filed before appropriate Saudi authorities/courts.



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