



**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India

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## QUESTION NO.242 INDIAN EMPLOYEES FORCED TO LEAVE SAUDI ARABIA

December 08, 2016

RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.242  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2016

### INDIAN EMPLOYEES FORCED TO LEAVE SAUDI ARABIA

\*242. SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimates are available regarding the number of Indian employees who are likely to be forced to leave Saudi Arabia due to Nitaqat, the replacement of foreign workers with Saudi nationals in the private sector: and

(b) if so, whether Government has any concrete proposals to support the people who returned due to Nitaqat?

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 REGARDING "INDIAN EMPLOYEES FORCED TO LEAVE SAUDI ARABIA" FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2016

The Government has no information to suggest that Indian employees are being forced to leave the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia due to the Nitaqat programme.

However, there are reports of Indian workers being affected in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the ongoing economic downturn due to fall in crude oil prices. There have been some lay-offs due to closure or downsizing by the companies to adjust to the current situation. Some Indian workers have reported delay in payment of salaries. Instances of unpaid salaries for last few months have also been reported by a section of Indian workers employed with two major companies namely, Saudi Oger and the Saad Group. The Government had already taken up the matter with the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi authorities have assured us extending all possible assistance to the affected Indian workers of these companies including in waiver of fines on Iqama (resident permit) related violations, providing exit visas and one way return tickets to India. The process of repatriation has already begun and over 4500 Indian workers have returned so far.

The Saudi authorities are also facilitating transfer of sponsorship, wherever possible, of the affected workers from their present company to other companies on gratis basis. A significant number of affected workers have availed transfer of sponsorship to other companies.

The Government is working in close coordination with the State governments so as to ensure that the returnees reach their destination in India without any hassles. The Government has also sensitized the State governments to inform the returnee workers about their resettlement programmes and financial support schemes and stands ready to work closely with the State governments in this regard.

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