



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO 1621 INDIAN WORKERS GOING TO UAE

March 16, 2017

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1621
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2017

INDIAN WORKERS GOING TO UAE

1621. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar move to Gulf countries for job ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many Indian workers get cheated by fraudsters and middlemen, their visa get seized and they are unable to return;
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and;
- (e) whether Government has held discussions with Government of United Arab Emirates (UAE), so that companies do not harass/torture Indian workers, who are working there?

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

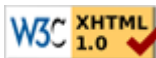
(a) & (b) This Ministry maintains data relating to Emigration Check Required (ECR) category passport holders proceeding for overseas employment to the 18 notified ECR countries. The number of ECR category Indian workers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, who have been granted emigration clearance during the last three years, for employment to the Gulf countries are as under:

Name of State	2014	2015	2016
Uttar Pradesh	226738	234201	141478
Bihar	97344	106427	75479

(c) & (d) Despite awareness campaigns and repeated warnings by the Government, a large number of workers go illegally for employment in the Gulf countries. On arrival in the foreign country and being faced with problems, the workers approach the Indian Embassy for help. The Indian Missions receive complaints from Indian workers against their sponsors regarding non-payment/less payment of salaries, non-issuance/renewal of residence permits, refusal to grant exit/re-entry permits for visit to India, refusal to allow the worker on final exit visa etc. On receipt of such complaints, the Missions take up the matter with the concerned Sponsor/Employer as well as with the local authorities for redressal of these grievances. The MADAD portal also enables the emigrant workers and their family members to register their consular grievances online and track their redressal. Grievances related to Overseas Employment in notified Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries, are logged in directly by emigrants/relatives/ Overseas Workers Resource's Centre (OWRC) on eMigrate portal, which are promptly attended to.

(e) On receipt of any complaint/grievance from the workers through his relatives / friends or through email from the Ministry, the Indian Mission in UAE takes up the matter at an appropriate level on case-to-case basis with the employers/local authorities for redressal/resolution of the problem. The Embassy provides them financial help for boarding & lodging for one month, payment of overstay fines & penalties and free air ticket under the guidelines of ICWF and Emergency certificate, if required. A 24x7 multilingual toll-free help line and Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) is in operation in Dubai since 2010 for addressing the grievances of Indian workers by way of offering them free legal, psychological and financial counselling.

India has also signed a MoU with UAE which, inter-alia, covers steps to enhance employment opportunities, bilateral cooperation in protection and welfare of workers, broad procedure that the foreign employer shall follow to recruit Indian workers, the recruitment and terms of employment and constitution of Joint Working Groups which would meet regularly to find solutions to bilateral labour problems.



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