

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3978

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005

TORTURE OF INDIANS ABROAD

Jagannath Dr. M.;Khandelwal Shri Vijay Kumar;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Indian girl has been brutally tortured by her Malaysian employer as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 15, 2005;
- (b) if so, whether frequent reports of Indians being tortured and framed in false cases abroad have come to the notice of the Government;
- (c) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last two years, country-wise;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for the safety of these workers;
- (e) whether a large number of agricultural labourers are migrating to Iraq despite harsh conditions there;
- (f) if so, the total number of such workers who have migrated so far; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against agencies who engage in sending workers to Iraq illegally?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER)

- (a): The report that had appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 15.03.2005 has been confirmed by the High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur.
- (b): From time to time complaints, including those relating to torture etc., are received.
- (c): During 2003 and 2004, twenty-five and thirty-nine complaints were received respectively. Country-wise data is not maintained.
- (d) The working conditions of Indian migrant labourers overseas have been under continuous review. Government is aware of ill treatment of migrant labourers in many cases. The steps taken and under consideration include:
 - i. Interventions in individual cases by/through our Missions and local community organisations;
 - ii. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the concerned countries to enable Government authorities on both sides to intervene in cases of extreme hardship; and
 - iii. Suggestion to provide legal aid to migrant workers.
- (e)&(f): Government is not aware of any reports of agricultural labourers migrating to Iraq.
- (g) In view of reports that Indian emigrants were entering Iraq illegally through Kuwait, Jordan etc., instructions were issued on 02.08.2004 for stamping the passports as - 'NOT VALID FOR TRAVEL TO IRAQ' - by the POEs while granting emigration clearance. In addition, advisories have been issued by the Government and the Indian Missions advising Indians from entering Iraq in view of the continuing unstable situation there.