

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:766
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
ILL TREATMENT TO INDIAN WORKERS IN IRAQ
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the reported pitiable condition of Indians working for contractors in Iraq; and
- (b) if so, the follow-up action taken by the Government to ensure that Indian workers are not ill treated?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Government have taken several measures including the following to ensure the well-being of the Indian workers:

(i) The Heads of Indian Missions in Iraq and countries neighbouring Iraq have been instructed to give top priority to all matters concerning Indian nationals in Iraq and to pursue actively with local authorities, employers of Indians and the American Missions for ensuring safety and well-being of Indians. Maximum possible assistance has been rendered by our Missions to Indians who wanted to return to India.

(ii) The Government has with effect from 15th April, 2004 suspended emigration clearance to Indians going to Iraq. In view of the sensitivity, recruitment of Indian ex-servicemen and their emigration clearance has been suspended temporarily with effect from 7th May, 2004 for Jordan, Kuwait and UAE.

(iii) Our Mission in Baghdad has been in close contact with the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Governing Council and the Iraqi Foreign Ministry to ensure the safety and well-being of Indians and to facilitate the return of those interested to return to India.

(iv) Our Missions in Jordan and Kuwait have contacted those local companies who have deployed Indians at their work-sites in Iraq to enquire about and ensure the well-being and safety of Indian workers.

(v) Officials of the Indian Embassy in Baghdad have visited some camps where the Indian workers are located.