

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:209
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
SOCIAL SECURITY PACT WITH COUNTRIES
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether India has signed social security pact with Belgium regarding protection of rights of Non-Resident Indian Workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the pact will be signed with other countries also especially the Gulf countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 209 by Shrimati Jayaprada and Shri Manoranjan Bhakta for reply on 06.12.2006 regarding Social Security Pact with countries.

(a)&(b): A bilateral agreement on Social Security was signed with Belgium on 3rd November 2006 (during the visit of the Belgian Prime Minister to India). The Agreement provides for the following benefits to Indians working in Belgium:

(i) Those working on a short-term contract of up to sixty months will be exempted from social security contributions under the Belgian law provided they continue to make social security payments in India.

(ii) Those who live and work in Belgium for periods longer than sixty months and contribute under the Belgian law will be entitled to the export of the social security benefits should they relocate to India or a third country on completion of their contract or on retirement.

(iii) These benefits will also be available to Indian employees sent by a company to Belgium from a third country.

(iv) Self-employed Indians in Belgium contributing to the Belgian social security system will be entitled to the export of social security benefits should they choose to relocate to India or a third country.

(v) Periods of employment in both the countries will be considered in order to determine the admissibility and the quantum of pension.

(vi) Indian companies will become more competitive in Belgium since exemption from social security contribution in respect of their employees substantially reduces costs.

(c)to(e): Government has initiated the process for negotiating similar agreements with the Netherlands and France. The Gulf countries, unlike Belgium, have no compulsory social security system mandated by law. As such, there is neither a demand nor a proposal to sign similar agreements with the Gulf countries.