

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2363  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007  
EXPULSION OF INDIANS BY UAE  
Vallabhaneni Shri Balashowry

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government of United Arab Emirates (UAE) has directed about 80,000 Indians working there to leave that country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) The Government of United Arab Emirates declared a three-month amnesty period effective from 3rd June 2007 for illegal expatriate workers either to regularise their status under the law or leave the country. According to rough estimates of the UAE government, there were more than 350,000 expatriate workers staying illegally in UAE, a majority of whom were believed to be from India. The move was apparently part of a series of measures taken to tighten the implementation of labour laws, particularly those on employment of illegal workers.

(c) Immediately on receipt of the information regarding declaration of Amnesty in UAE, the Ministry of External Affairs, in consultation with the Ministries of Overseas Indian Affairs, Home Affairs, Shipping and Civil Aviation, initiated steps to deal with the expected large- scale exodus of Indian nationals from UAE and their return to India.

In order to help the Indian workers staying illegally in UAE, the Indian Embassy at Abu Dhabi as well as the Consulate General of India in Dubai have been making concerted efforts, in collaboration with the local Indian organisations, to assist illegal Indian immigrants in completing the requisite formalities to regularise their status/return to India. These efforts have entailed, inter alia, issuance of Emergency Certificates to the concerned persons and return of passports, received from the UAE authorities, to their holders. As of 22.08.2007, 38,996 persons have been given Emergency Certificates by the Indian Mission/Post in UAE. 23,868 passports, received from the UAE authorities, have also been returned to their holders. Required extra manpower was also deputed for this work to the Consulate General in Dubai.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in coordination with the concerned authorities in various State Governments, has been dealing with verification of identity of persons whose passports are not available and whose Indian nationality is not established. The Passport Offices in various States are also helping in such verification process. The Immigration authorities have made special arrangements to handle a large number of Indian deportees not only at the major international airports in India but also at other airports in States to which these deportees mostly belong. The two national carriers, Air India and Indian, have also made special arrangements in terms of enhancing their capacity to meet the increased demand of seats from UAE to India.