

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2786  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008  
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES  
Kurup Adv. Suresh;Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

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

(a) whether the Government has entered into bilateral/multilateral Agreement with foreign Governments to ensure payment of minimum wages and provision of basic living conditions to Indian workers in their countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(b) Government has not entered into Agreements with foreign Governments to ensure payment of minimum wages. However, Government has been actively pursuing the signing of formal bilateral MoUs with the major labour receiving countries to secure their commitment towards the protection and welfare of Indian emigrant workers. In December 2006 the Government signed an MoU with the UAE and in April 2007 with Kuwait. In November 2007 an Additional Protocol with Qatar was signed to update the 1985 Agreement. MoU has been finalized with Malaysia, which will shortly be signed. MoU are also being pursued with Oman, Bahrain and Yemen. The Government has prescribed a minimum wage for women household service workers emigrating to the Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries. The minimum wage will be fixed by the Indian Missions concerned in the range of US \$ 300-350 after taking into account the prevailing market wage in that country.