

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2913
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
WELFARE FUND FOR WORKERS
Banerjee Shri Ambica;Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up a welfare fund for overseas stranded workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of stranded workers at present in foreign countries, particularly in Gulf countries; and
- (d) the number of stranded workers require immediate rehabilitation, country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India has set up an Indian Community Welfare Fund(ICWF) to provide 'on-site' welfare services and assistance to stranded / destitute Indians abroad. The ICWF is funded through budgetary support from MOIA, levy of a nominal surcharge on consular services and voluntary contributions from the Indian community. The welfare services provided include food, shelter, air passage and emergency medical treatment to stranded / destitute Indians on a means tested basis. ICWF is being operated by the heads of Indian missions in 42 Countries. The list of these Countries is enclosed at Annexure.

(c) & (d): About 199 Indian workers are awaiting repatriation in Qatar and 1 in Malaysia. No worker is stranded in Kuwait at present. No data is available in respect of other Countries.