

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:197
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
AGREEMENTS ON IMMIGRANT WORKERS
Pradhan Shri Amarnath

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

- (a) whether India has signed any bilateral agreements with recipient countries to protect the immigrant Indian workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the countries with whom India has already signed or is likely to sign the agreements; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the agreements ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 197 for answer on 2nd December 2009

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all the major labour receiving Countries to protect the interests and welfare of our migrant workers. MoUs have been signed with UAE in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009 and with Bahrain in June, 2009. The Government has also signed a Labour Mobility Partnership Agreement with Denmark in September, 2009.

The MoUs contain broad principles for enhancing employment opportunities and for ensuring that the recruitment and terms of employment are in conformity with the laws of both the Countries, measures to be taken by the host Country for protection and welfare of the workers and constitution of a Joint Working Group for effective implementation of the MoUs.

In addition to the labour MoUs, the Government has also signed bilateral Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Netherlands. These Agreements protect the interests of our workers by exempting the posted workers from social security contribution under the host country legislation for a certain period of time (provided the worker continues to pay his contribution under the home country system during the period of detachment), provide for portability of pension to those who have to contribute under the host country legislation and totalization of contribution periods covered under the two systems. Similar Agreements have also been negotiated with Canada, Norway, Denmark, Hungary and Czech Republic.

Meetings of the Joint Working Groups constituted under the provisions of the MoUs are convened periodically for effective implementation of the Labour Agreements and to sort out outstanding issues.