

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.502
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2017

DECLINE IN NUMBER OF INDIAN WORKERS IN GULF COUNTRIES

†502. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian workers working in Gulf countries, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain for the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether any decline has been registered in the number of workers in these countries since 2014;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study on the reasons for this decline; and
- (d) whether Government has made any estimate of loss of foreign exchange due to this?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Government maintains the data in respect of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders, travelling legally to any of the 18 ECR countries for overseas employment. The number of such Indian workers emigrating to six gulf countries during the last three years is as under:

SL. No.	Name of Country	2014	2015	2016
1	Bahrain	14207	15619	11964
2	Kuwait	80419	66543	72402
3	Oman	51317	85028	63224
4	Qatar	75983	59340	30619
5	S. Arabia	329882	306642	165356
6	U. A. E.	224037	225512	163731
Total		775845	758684	507296

(b) & (c) There has been a decline in the number of Indian workers emigrating to the gulf countries for employment due to economic slowdown in GCC countries triggered by the weak oil prices, which has resulted in lack of demand for workers. However, it has been reported by the Indian Missions that by undertaking different fiscal measures, these countries have been able to cope with the depressed oil and gas prices.

(d) As per information provided by the Reserve Bank of India, the overall remittances/private transfers made by the Indians working abroad, all over the world, including Gulf countries, as recorded in India's balance of payments statistics has fallen slightly from US\$ 69,819 Million in 2014-15 to US\$ 65,592 Million in 2015-16.
