

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2190

ANSWERED ON-31/07/2026

REGULATION OF OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT AGENTS

2190. SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA

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

- (a) the number of complaints received against illegal or unregistered recruiting agents during the last five years, State-wise and destination-country-wise;**
- (b) the number of such complaints involving fraud, passport retention, non-payment of wages, contract substitution, forced labour, cyber-scam operations or abandonment abroad;**
- (c) the number of illegal recruiting agents identified, blacklisted, prosecuted or convicted, State-wise and year-wise;**
- (d) the number of websites, social-media pages, phone numbers, bank accounts or payment handles linked to such illegal recruitment that were blocked, frozen or referred to law-enforcement agencies; and**

(e) whether the Government proposes to integrate e-Migrate, State police databases, immigration counters and Indian Missions abroad to track repeat offenders in overseas recruitment fraud, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to e) Recruitment Agencies (RA) in India established for engaging in the recruitment business for overseas employment are regulated as per the provisions under The Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules thereunder. As per Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983, no person or agency can function as RA without a valid Registration Certificate (RC) issued by the Registering Authority, i.e., Protector General of Emigrants (PGE). Mandatory registration of RA is aimed at curbing fraud and exploitation of prospective Indian emigrants seeking overseas employment.

The RC holders are required to comply with the provisions under the Emigration Act, 1983, and the terms and conditions of Registration Certificate prescribed in Section 10 of The Emigration Rules, 1983, which are focussed on safeguarding the interests of emigrant workers. The Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules thereunder also provide for punitive

actions against the registered RAs for violation of the provisions thereunder.

Issuance of RC is done through eMigrate Portal (<https://emigrate.gov.in>) only, which is maintained by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). List of all the registered RAs in India is publicly available on the eMigrate portal. List of unregistered agents against whom complaints were received, has been published on the eMigrate portal to caution the prospective emigrants. As on date a total of 3,505 such unregistered agents have been notified on the eMigrate portal.

As and when complaints of illegal recruitment activities by unauthorized agents are received in the MEA, they are referred to the State/UT police for investigation and prosecution under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and other legislations in place. Data of complaints of illegal recruitment activities received from the States/UTs, and action taken against them during the last five years are given in Annexure-I. Data of complaints against unauthorized agent registered on eMigrate portal is given in Annexure-II.

Based on available information, the number of complaints received by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad from the emigrant workers including fraud, passport retention, non-payment of wages, contract substitution, forced labour, cyber-scam operations, abandonment, etc. and resolved are attached at Annexure-III.

MEA takes necessary actions against illegal recruitment activities conducted through a website, social media handles, and other such means including by asking the service provider to take down such posts. It also refers the matter to the law enforcement agencies for further necessary action as per relevant provisions under the Emigration Act, 1983, and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. A total of 208 such cases were referred to concerned internet intermediaries for taking down such posts, out of which, 202 posts were removed.

The eMigrate portal is integrated with the system of Bureau of Immigration (BOI) to facilitate clearance of the emigrant workers holding ECR passports travelling to ECR countries for employment.

ANNEXURE I

Data regarding complaints of illegal recruitment activities and follow up action [2021 – 2025]

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Complaints					ATR Submitted by State Police					Number of Cases in which request for issue of prosecution sanction after investigation received					Number of Prosecution Sanctions issued				
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	111	688	445	602	448	0	0	5	11	19	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Bihar	10	2	6	5	1	4 (FIR registered)	0	1(FIR registered)	1(FIR registered)	1(FIR registered)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

6.	Chandigarh	0	0	3	9	80	0	0	0	0	34 (3 FIRs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	1	1	4	92	153	0	0	0	0	17 ATR 17 FIR	0	0	0	11	13	0	0	0	11	13
10.	Goa	3	14	5	1	13	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Gujarat	2	2	2	9	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
12.	Haryana	0	1	4	2	33	0	0	0	0	09 ATR 0 FIR + 5 ATR +1 FIR)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0	3	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Jammu &	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

	Kashmir																				
15.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Karnataka	7	21	32	33	61	0	4	6	8	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	3	0	1
17.	Kerala	65	69	110	277	238	54 (FIRs Registered)	47 (FIRs Registered)	87 (FIRs Registered)	197 (FIRs Registered)	158	2	7	7	15	0	2	7	7	1	14
18.	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Maharashtra	22	8	6	14	22	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
22.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	3 FIR Registered)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Odisha	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

										(FIR Regi ster ed)	(FIR Regi ster ed)										
27.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	2	23	56	18	80	0	0	0	38(F IR Regi ster ed)	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Rajasthan	91	64	35	87	97	24 (one FIR Regi ster ed)	2	0	0	4	4	0	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	0
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	85	254	152	106	99	0	6	7	64	52	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
32.	Telangana	74	63	132	96	111	-	19	35	17	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Uttar Pradesh	0	1	0	6	31	0	0	0	0	08 ATR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

											03 FIR										
36.	West Bengal	74	10	5	10	35	0	1	2	2	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

**Data of complaints against unauthorized agent
registered on eMigrate portal
during last five years**

Year	Total Grievances Received	Total Grievances Resolved
2021	70	27
2022	189	98
2023	84	43
2024	120	67
2025	321	224
Total	784	459

Annexure-III

S. No.	Name of the Country	Name of the Mission/Post	Number of complaints received by Indian Missions/Posts and resolved (fraud, passport retention, non-payment of wages, contract substitution, forced labour, etc.)									
			Complaints received	Complaints resolved	Complaints received	Complaints resolved	Complaints received	Complaints resolved	Complaints received	Complaints resolved	Complaints received	Complaints resolved
			2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025
1.	Albania	EOI, Tirana	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	5
2.	Algeria	EOI, Algiers	8	8	4	4	4	4	7	7	3	3
3.	Angola	HCI, Luanda	12	12	10	10	12	12	8	2	8	2
4.	Bahrain	EOI, Bahrain	335	327	612	579	711	649	603	594	345	310
5.	Bangladesh	HCI, Dhaka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6.	Belarus	EOI, Minsk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
7.	Botswana	HCI, Gaborone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
8.	Cambodia	EOI, Phnom Penh	0	0	44	44	207	207	982	982	1300	1300

9.	Camer oon	HCI, Yaounde	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	76	0	0
10.	Democ ratic Republi c of Congo	EOI, Kinshasa	0	0	41	30	66	40	50	40	33	25
11.	Egypt	EOI, Cairo	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
12.	Ethiopi a	EOI, Addis Ababa	7	7	10	10	14	14	73	73	54	54
13.	France	CGI, Marseille	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
14.	Ghana	HCI, Accra	2	2	3	2	5	5	7	6	5	4
15.	Greece	EOI, Athens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	
16.	Guyana	HCI, Georgetow n	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
17.	Indone sia	CGI, Bali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
18.	Iran	EOI, Tehran	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
19.	Iraq	CGI, Erbil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
20.	Italy	EOI, Rome	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4

21.	Jordan	EOI, Amman	0	0	0	0	118	118	23	23	43	43
22.	Kuwait	EOI, Kuwait	4339	2910	5660	3820	7820	4517	3728	2055	4081	2608
23.	Kyrgyzstan	EOI, Bishkek	0	0	0	0	75	75	90	90	105	105
24.	Lao PDR	EOI, Vientiane	3	3	81	74	252	244	592	558	1,488	1,421
25.	Latvia	EOI, Riga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
26.	Liberia	EOI, Monrovia	0	0	6	6	4	4	3	3	2	2
27.	Malawi	HCI, Lilongwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
28.	Malaysia	HCI, Kuala Lumpur	947	947	412	412	1648	1648	2794	2794	2532	2532
29.	Maldives	HCI, Male	203	203	184	184	549	518	1,190	826	855	481
30.	Mauritania	EOI, Nouakchott	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
31.	Mauritius	HCI, Port Louis	0	0	0	0	3	6	6	2	4	4
32.	Morocco	EOI, Rabat	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	o											
33.	Myanmar	EOI, Yangon	0	0	399	338	83	89	203	147	1863	1594
34.	Nepal	CGI, Birgunj	12	12	3	3	2	2	11	11	20	20
35.	Oman	EOI, Muscat	1,077	1,067	2,478	1,927	4,281	4,111	3,114	3,016	2,345	2,241
36.	Qatar	EOI, Doha	1,551	1,552	436	568	139	121	162	334	135	257
37.	Republic of Guinea	EOI, Conakry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
38.	Russia	EOI, Moscow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
39.	Russia	CGI, St. Petersburg	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5
40.	Rwanda	HCI, Kigali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
41.	Saudi Arabia	EOI, Riyadh	1128	1122	1947	1941	2279	2250	2223	1999	2198	1660
42.	Saudi Arabia	CGI, Jeddah	650	650	456	456	798	798	630	615	679	665
43.	Senegal	EOI, Dakar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
44.	Serbia	EOI,	1	1	5	5	3	3	12	12	34	34

		Belgrade										
45.	Seyche lles	HCI, Victoria, Mahe	19	19	31	31	58	58	42	42	46	46
46.	Sierra Leone	EOI, Freetown	0	0	4	4	3	3	18	18	27	26
47.	Sloveni a	EOI, Ljubljana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
48.	South Korea	EOI, Seoul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
49.	Sri Lanka	HCI, Colombo	121	121	35	35	108	108	221	215	167	167
50.	Sri Lanka	AHCI, Kandy	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
51.	Syria	EOI, Damascus	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	2	2
52.	Thailan d	EOI, Bangkok	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
53.	Togo	EOI, Lome	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
54.	Tunisia	EOI, Tunis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
55.	Turkiye	CGI, Istanbul	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
56.	UAE	EOI, Abu Dhabi	755	755	779	779	528	528	387	387	411	407

57.	UAE	CGI, Dubai	1,972	1,714	2,427	2,366	2,928	2,543	3,030	2,981	3,727	3,309
58.	Uganda	HCI, Kampala	1	1	5	5	2	0	2	2	2	0
59.	Uzbeki stan	EOI, Tashkent	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	800	540	540
60.	Vietna m	EOI, Hanoi	1	1	2	2	7	7	21	21	4	4
61.	Zambia	HCI, Lusaka	9	9	2	1	4	2	12	11	9	8
