

EMIGRATION AND YOU



INTRODUCTION

The work relating to emigration of Indian citizens from India to other countries for employment and the return of emigrants is the responsibility of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") govern emigration from India. The Emigration Act, 1983 provides the regulatory framework for emigration of Indian workers for contractual overseas employment and seeks to safeguard their interests and ensure their welfare. The Act makes it mandatory for registration of Recruiting Agents with the Protector General of Emigrants.

What is Emigration ?

Emigration means the departure of any person from India for employment (whether or not under an agreement, with or without the assistance of a registered Recruiting Agent or employer) in any country or place outside India.

The Indian Emigrant

Emigration of Indian workers to other countries has been an ongoing process since time immemorial. Always a source of new talent and endeavour, the Indian worker has contributed to the economic development of both his home country as also the country where he works.

Emigration Clearance granted to 18 ECR countries

The number of emigrants who are ECR passport holders to 18 notified ECR countries was about 350,000 in 2019.

Spanning the Globe

While the oil boom of the 1970s saw Indian emigrants mainly going to the Gulf countries, they have also moved to developed nations like the US, UK, Germany and Canada as also to the developing economies of South- East Asia And Australia. However, the Gulf region continues to account for the bulk of the Indian emigrants – about 9 million workers currently work there.

Statutory Framework

Genesis of the Law

To regulate, assist and guide the workers proceeding abroad for employment on contractual basis, the Government of India enacted the Emigration Act, 1983. The Act had its genesis in a judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement (Kanga and Others vs. Union of India, dated 20.3.1979), wherein the Apex Court ruled that emigration should be regulated on the basis of guidelines enumerated in its aforesaid order. Since the Act was enacted, the protection of emigrants and their interest has become the duty of the Office of the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE), now in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The Emigration Act, 1983

In order to safeguard the interests of Indian nationals working abroad, the Emigration Act, 1983 requires all workers seeking contractual employment abroad to obtain emigration clearance from any of the ten Offices of the Protectors of Emigrants (POE's). The Act also mandates that no agency/establishment can undertake recruitment of Indians for employment abroad without obtaining registration from the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Salient Features of the Act

- Any Indian national can be recruited for a job abroad either through a Recruiting Agent registered under the Act or by an employer with a valid Permit issued by the Protector General of Emigrants.
- No Indian citizen (unless exempted) can emigrate without obtaining emigration clearance from the concerned Protector of Emigrants.

Organizational Structure

Ministry of External Affairs administers the Emigration Act, 1983. The Act is enforced by the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE). The ten offices of the Protector of Emigrants function under the supervision and control of the PGE located at Chandigarh, Cochin, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raebareli, Trivandrum, Bengaluru, Patna and Guwahati. Any applicant seeking employment abroad and possessing a passport with 'Emigration Check Required', endorsement can obtain emigration clearance from any of these 13 offices on submission of documents as prescribed. Persons holding ECNR passport or unstamped passports are not required to obtain emigration clearance.

Emigration Procedures



Emigration Check Required (ECR) Category

Categories of persons whose passports have been endorsed as "Emigration Check Required" (ECR), are required to obtain Emigration Clearance from the POE office before travelling abroad for taking up an overseas employment. Prior to 2007, they were required to obtain 'suspension' of emigration check in order to travel abroad for purposes other than employment.

With effect from 1st October, 2007 the requirement of obtaining 'Suspension' has been done away with. Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) Category Section 22 of the Emigration Act, 1983 provides that no citizen of India shall emigrate unless he obtains Emigration Clearance from the office of concerned Protector of Emigrants (POE). However, with a view to facilitate the movement of the people, 13 categories of persons (listed later in this chapter) have been exempted from this requirement and have been placed under 'Emigration Check Not Required' (ECNR) category. As such they are entitled to ECNR endorsement on their passports from the Regional Passport Offices. Such persons are not required to obtain any emigration clearance from the Offices of POEs before seeking employment abroad.

When Emigration Clearance is Not Required

- Persons travelling on ECNR passport / unstamped passport (See list);
- Persons travelling to any of the ECNR countries (See list);
- The pilgrims going for Haj and Umrah to Saudi Arabia and those pilgrims travelling with the declared purpose of performing Ziarat to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen

LIST OF PERSONS/CATEGORIES OF WORKERS IN WHOSE CASE EMIGRATION CHECK IS NOT REQUIRED / ELIGIBLE FOR UNSTAMPED PASSPORT

1. All holders of Diplomatic/Official Passports.
2. All Gazetted Government Servants.
3. All income-tax payers (including Agricultural Income Tax payers) in their individual capacity.
4. All professional degree holders, such as Doctors holding MBBS degrees or Degrees in Ayurved or Homoeopathy; Accredited Journalists; Engineers; Chartered Accountants; Lecturers; Teachers; Scientists; Advocates etc.
5. Spouses and dependent children of category of persons listed from (2) to (4).
6. Persons holding class 10 or higher qualification.
7. Seamen who are in possession of CDC or Sea Cadets, Desk Cadets (i) who have passed final examination of three year B.SC Nautical Science Courses at T.S. Chanakya, Mumbai; and (ii) who have undergone three months Pre-sea training at any of the Government approved Training Institutes such as T.S. Chanakya, T.S. Rehman, T.S. Jawahar, MTI (SCI) and NIPM, Chennai after production of identity cards issued by the Shipping Master, Mumbai/Calcutta/Chennai.
8. Persons holding permanent immigration Visas, such as the visas of UK, USA and Australia.
9. Persons possessing two years diploma from any institute recognized by the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) or State Council of Vocational Training (SCVT) or persons holding three years diploma/equivalent degree from institutions like Polytechnics recognized by Central/State Governments.
10. Nurses possessing qualification recognized under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.
11. All persons above the age of 50 years.
12. All persons who have been staying abroad for more than three years (the period of three years could be either in one stretch or broken) and their spouses.
13. Children below 18 years of age.

LIST OF COUNTRIES FOR WHICH EMIGRATION CHECK IS NOT REQUIRED IS GIVEN AT APPENDIX-I

LIST OF COUNTRIES FOR WHICH EMIGRATION CHECK IS REQUIRED IS GIVEN AT APPENDIX-II

Delegation of Power to Immigration Officers

The Immigration Officers posted at International Airports have been given powers to allow the following categories of persons with 'ECR' endorsement on their passports to board the aircraft for proceeding abroad under emergent circumstances:

VIPs like Central and State Ministers, MPs, MLAs etc. and their family members accompanying them.

(ii) Central and State Government Officers travelling on diplomatic/official passport or passports with ECNR endorsement and their family members accompanying them.

(iii) Students going abroad for higher studies provided they furnish documentary proof in support of their admission in the foreign country.

(iv) Persons going abroad due to sudden demise of any of their relatives in a foreign country.

(v) Persons going abroad for medical treatment of any injury due to accident or any acute health problem of self or any of their relatives in a foreign country.

(vi) Sports persons representing the country in International competitions/training/coaching programmes provided their foreign visit is duly approved by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Guidelines for Emigration Clearance

The procedure for emigration clearance has been simplified. Emigration clearance to individual is granted on the same day on which the application is made at any of the offices of the Protectors of Emigrants (POE). Even where the clearance is required for groups, it is given on the same day at all POE offices.

Procedure for Emigration Clearance

1. In cases where the profession indicated in visa does not tally with the profession indicated in the Employment contract, affidavit may be obtained from the Recruiting Agent.

2. Where the visa is stamped on arrival in the country of employment, Emigration Clearance may be granted on the basis of a 'No Objection Certificate' issued by foreign Embassy concerned.

3. The Recruiting Agent is required to furnish an affidavit confirming the following:

(i) that employment visa(s) attached/endorsed on the passport(s) of the worker(s) issued by respective Foreign Mission/Competent Authority in respect of foreign employer as per the details given against each name is/are genuine and valid for the period mentioned;

(ii) that the workers have been recruited by the Recruiting Agent and demand received from the foreign employer (where applicable);

(iii) that the worker will be deployed with the same foreign employer for whom he is being recruited and that he will be received by the foreign employer on reaching the country of employer;

(iv) that the worker has been trade tested and found fit for the job for which he is being deployed;

(v) that the worker will be paid the minimum required salary and shall be governed by minimum standards for conditions of employment as may be required in the country of employment;

(vi) that the worker will be deployed on the same job for which he has been recruited;

(vii) that the female worker will not be deployed as maid servant/domestic servant (where applicable);

(viii) that the Recruiting Agent is maintaining a register containing the above mentioned details of the workers.

4. No clearance is given for Iraq because the Government has temporarily banned emigration to Iraq.

5. No emigration clearance is granted for recruiting Indian nationals for any blacklisted Foreign Employer.

Applying for Emigration Clearance

The application for emigration clearance should be made in the prescribed form by the applicant directly or through a Recruiting Agent or through the skilled employer concerned.

Documents Required for Skilled/Semi-Skilled Workers (individuals) Semi-skilled individuals who seek emigration clearance directly from the Protectors of Emigrants (and not through Recruiting Agents) are required to produce the following documents in original for scrutiny and return:

(i) Passport valid for a minimum period of six months with valid visa.

(ii) Employment Contract from foreign employer.

(iii) Challan towards deposit of prescribed fee.

(iv) Insurance policy – Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana

Documents Required for Unskilled Workers (individuals) Unskilled workers and women (not below 30 years of age) seeking employment abroad as housemaids/domestic workers shall continue to furnish (in original) the following documents at the time of obtaining emigration clearance:

- (i) Passport valid for a minimum period of six months with valid Visa.
- (ii) Employment contract from the foreign employer duly attested by the Indian Mission or Permission letter from the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- (iii) Challan towards deposit of prescribed fee.
- (iv) Insurance policy (from any company registered with IRDA)

Documents required for skilled/semi-skilled workers (Through Recruiting Agents) Recruiting agents who seek emigration clearance for skilled /semiskilled workers are required to produce:

- (i) Passport of the worker valid for a minimum period of 6 months with valid visa.
- (ii) Original Employment contract, demand letter and power of attorney from the foreign employer.
- (iii) Challan towards deposit of prescribed fee.
- (iv) Insurance Policy-Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana applicable from December, 25, 2003.

Documents required for unskilled workers (Through Recruiting Agents) In addition to the requirements for Skilled/semiskilled workers, all employment documents mentioned in (ii) above have to be duly attested by the Indian Mission.

The Protector of Emigrants, after satisfying himself about the accuracy of the particulars mentioned in the application and in the other documents submitted along with the application, grants emigration clearance in the prescribed manner and form. In case there is any deficiency, the POE intimates the same by an order in writing to the applicant or, as the case may be, the Recruiting Agent or employer, through whom the applications have been made.

Rejection of Application

The Protector of Emigrants may reject an application for emigration clearance on any one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) that the terms and conditions of employment which the applicant proposes to take up are discriminatory or exploitative;
- (b) that the employment which the applicant proposes to take up involves work of a nature which is unlawful according to the laws of India or offends against the public policy of India or is violative of norms of human dignity and decency;
- (c) that the applicant will have to work or live in sub-standard working or living conditions;
- (d) that having regard to the prevailing circumstances in the country or place where the applicant proposes to take up employment or the antecedents of the employer under

whom the applicant proposes to take up employment or any other relevant circumstances, it would not be in the interest of the applicant to emigrate;

(e) that no provision or arrangement has been made for meeting the expenses which may be incurred in case it becomes necessary to arrange for the repatriation to India of the applicant, or that the provisions or arrangements made in this behalf are not adequate for the purpose.

Recruitment Procedures

Recruiting Agents

To streamline recruitment and to safeguard the interests of the emigrants, the Emigration Act 1983 stipulates that only Recruiting Agents possessing registration certificate from the PGE can recruit for overseas employment. The PGE has issued registration certificates to State Manpower Export Corporations in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, apart from about 1800 private agencies to recruit workers for overseas employment. The complete list of registered Recruiting Agents can be viewed online at www.emigrate.gov.in. Most of the Recruiting Agents are based in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Trivandrum. The Registration Certificate is issued after detailed screening by the Protector General's Office. Veracity of a recruiting agent can be ascertained by emigrants from the office of PGE and POE.

Direct Recruitment

Direct recruitment is permitted in the case of foreign employers who obtain a permit from the Protector General of Emigrants.

Service Charges

Recognizing that the Recruiting Agents are providing a service to prospective emigrants, the Government has allowed them to levy service charges. However, in a bid to prevent any misuse or exorbitant levies, the Government has limited the maximum service charges that such agents can charge each worker.

Job Advertisement by Recruiting Agents

It is mandatory on the part of the Recruiting Agents to quote the Registration Certificate number while advertising for overseas job. Before issue of the advertisement the Recruiting Agent must obtain three employment documents - Demand Letter, Specimen Contract and Power of Attorney - from the foreign employer. The emigrant can confirm the genuineness of the agent from the nearest Protector of Emigrant's office located in Chandigarh, Cochin, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Raebareli, Trivandrum, Bengaluru, Patna and Guwahati or from the official website of the Ministry (<http://www.emigrate.gov.in>). He can also ask the Recruiting Agent to show the registration certificate and the three documents mentioned above.

MANDATORY ATTESTATION OF EMPLOYMENT

DOCUMENTS

Keeping in view reports about submission of fake/forged documents by some unscrupulous Recruiting Agents to the Protector of Emigrants, it was decided to introduce mandatory attestation of employment in case of “unskilled workers” and “house maids. In addition, attested employment documents are required to be submitted for all categories of workers if the recruitment is for Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Kuwait, Sudan and Brunei.

RESTRICTION/BAN ON RECRUITMENT OF WORKERS FOR IRAQ, LIBYA and YEMEN

Emigration clearance to Iraq is allowed except to the five Provinces of Iraq, namely Nineveh(Capital Mosul); Salahuddin (Capital Tikrit); Diyala (Capital Baquba); Anbar (Capital Ramadi) and Kirkuk. Emigration clearance to Libya and Yemen is not allowed.

INSURANCE POLICY

Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2017

The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a mandatory insurance scheme aimed at safeguarding the interests of Indian emigrant workers falling under Emigration Check Required (ECR) category going for overseas employment to ECR countries. The Scheme, initially launched in 2003, has been amended in 2006, 2008 and 2017 with the overarching objective of strengthening the coverage of emigrant workers.

The last comprehensive review of the Scheme has been undertaken during 2017 in consultation with all stake holders. The revised scheme PBBY, 2017 has become operational w.e.f. August 1,2017. Presently, the scheme provides an insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakhs in case of accidental death/permanent disability at an insurance premium of Rs. 275 and Rs. 375 for a period of two and three years respectively. The revised scheme has also been made compulsory for various professions falling under work categories under Section 2(o) of Emigration Act, 1983 irrespective of the passport categories. PBBY, 2017 also includes global insurance coverage irrespective of employer and location, has facility for online renewal and a simplified process for certification of accidental death/permanent disability. The scheme is now more beneficial for emigrant workers and is aimed at ensuring an expeditious settlement of claims.

Salient features of PBBY, 2017 are as follows :

- The Insured person shall be covered for a sum of Rs.10.00 lakhs in the event of accidental death or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad, irrespective of change of employer/location of insured person.

- Certification of accidental death or permanent disability by Indian Missions and Posts abroad shall be accepted by the insurance companies.
- Medical insurance cover including injuries / sickness / ailment / diseases available upto Rs.1,00,000/- (up to Rs. 50,000 per hospitalization).
- Repatriation cover for medically unfit/premature termination of employment: Actual one-way economy class air fare to the nearest international airport in India.
- Family Hospitalization in India available upto Rs. 50,000/- for Spouse and first two children upto 21 years of age.
- Maternity expenses benefit to women emigrants available upto Rs. 50,000/-.
- Reimbursement of return economy class air fare to the nearest international airport to one attendant in case of emigrant's accidental death or permanent disability.
- Legal expenses on litigation related to emigrant's overseas employment admissible upto Rs. 45,000/-.
- Provision for on-line renewal of PBBY policy.

Detailed information about the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2017 is available at : <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2017/177373.pdf> 

Fair Premium

Further, the Government has stipulated that an emigrant can select a company of his choice while seeking the insurance cover, having fixed the premium for the scheme at a fair and market determined price.

Airfare Deposit Withdrawn

After introduction of the compulsory Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna in 2003, the Government has withdrawn the requirement to deposit one-way economy class airfare for any individual emigrant. Withdrawal of deposits by returnee emigrants before 25-12-2003, every individual going abroad for employment was required to deposit one-way air fare as security. Such emigrant is entitled to withdraw the security deposit after lapse of a period of three years and for withdrawal of deposit, he/she is required to personally present his passport and used ticket alongwith the Bank Receipt to the POE concerned. The deposit could be withdrawn from the Bank after taking approval Induction Course for prospective emigrant workers to be employed in Malaysia

- Indian workers going to Malaysia for employment purposes are required to attend a mandatory induction course of two weeks duration and pass an objective test.
- The course is conducted by agencies approved by the Malaysian Government.

Redressal of Grievances

The number of persons going abroad for employment has increased rapidly over last few years. However, complaints received from emigrants about malpractices by employers and intermediaries.

Nature of Complaints

- The contracts was unilaterally modified or substituted to the disadvantage of the worker

after his arrival in the host country.

- The worker was put on a job different from the one for which he was recruited in India.
- The worker was not given any employment at all by the sponsor. Instead he/she is required to look for a job himself/herself and in return he/she is forced to pay a part of his/her salary to the sponsor.
- The registered Recruiting Agents charged much higher fees than prescribed by the government for the emigrant workers.

- The employer did not pay wages in time and terminated the employment contract prematurely.
- In some cases, workers complain of unsatisfactory living and working conditions, harassment, and denial of death and disability compensations etc, ill-treatment and physical abuse.

Complaints against Recruiting Agents

The complaints made by the emigrants/intending emigrants are thoroughly examined and if necessary, in consultation with the concerned Indian Mission abroad. Action is taken, as appropriate in each case in accordance with the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder.

Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983 provides for compulsory registration of Recruiting Agents with the Registering Authority, i.e, Protector General of Emigrants, Government of India for carrying on the business of recruitment for employment abroad. Contravention of provisions of Section 10 is a cognizable offence and Section 24 of the Act prescribes penalties for those who commit or attempt to commit such offences. All unregistered Recruiting Agents are proceeded against under this provision. Complaints against them are referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation and filing F.I.R. State Governments have been also requested to advise the District Authorities, in particular the Police Authorities, to ensure that preventive, strict and exemplary action is taken against illegal recruiting agents.

As regards registered Recruiting Agents, action is taken by PGE against erring agents by way of suspension and cancellation of Registration Certificate. In cases where the conduct of the Recruiting Agent is found to be dubious he is placed in the internal Watch List. Whenever major error is committed by any agents, the Bank Guarantees submitted by the Recruiting Agents are forfeited apart from cancellation of their Registration Certificate. Complaints against foreign employers are taken up with the Indian Mission abroad. Complaints mostly relate to change of employment contract, non-payment and deduction of salaries, unhygienic working conditions, etc. As and when the foreign companies are found involved in breach of contract and non-payment of salaries etc, the same companies are placed in the Blacklist.

Public Hearings

The Protector General of Emigrants holds public hearings on every Wednesday at the office of PGE, 10th Floor, Akbar Bhawan, New Delhi from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon for emigrants and from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for Recruiting Agents. An aggrieved person can meet the PGE during a public hearing for redressal of his grievance without any prior appointment.

Women emigrants

To prevent women emigrants from being exploited, women younger than 30 years holding ECR passports and seeking overseas employment are not granted emigration clearance. Special measures are being taken for on-site welfare of women emigrants

with the help of Indian missions. Women between the age group of 30 years and 50 years holding ECR passports can be granted EC for overseas employment.

Sending of Remittances from Abroad

For sending remittances, emigrant workers who are going abroad for employment for more than 6 months can open a saving bank account viz. "NRI Saving Account". If the emigrant worker is going abroad for employment for less than 6 months, he/she can open "NRI Saving Accounts. The workers may also ascertain from the concerned bank as to whether that particular bank has their branch in the place where he/she would be working before opening an account. The emigrant workers are advised to avoid sending of remittance through Hawala. An emigrant-friendly e-remittance facility has been started with the help of UTI Bank.

Computerized Operations

The Government is implementing comprehensive e-governance in emigration to make the process simple, transparent, fast and emigrant-friendly. All stakeholders will be linked to a common platform for greater accountability and data control. Process of granting Emigration clearance through computer has already been completed in POE, Chandigarh, Cochin, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Raebareli Trivandrum, Guwahati and Patna.

Protection and welfare measures

- To mitigate the inconvenience caused to Indian Citizens going abroad and for removing a major source of corruption in the system, Emigration Clearance Required Suspension (ECRS) has been abolished from 1st October, 2007.
- A nationwide information campaign will be started with a view to create awareness among the masses about the emigration procedure and to protect the emigrants from exploitation.
- A Pre-Departure Orientation Training has been started by the Ministry in partnership with NSDC and the State Governments to familiarize the emigrants with the customs, rules and regulations of the host country and measures of welfare and protection available to them through the Indian Missions.
- A 24x7 helpline is available at the PBSK.

Do's and Don'ts for Indian Emigrants

Do's:

- Do ensure that you have a valid passport. The passport should preferably be valid at least for the next six months so that no immediate inconvenience is caused to you on your reaching the country of employment.

- Do ensure that you are recruited through an authorized Recruiting Agent. Insist on seeing his registration certificate issued by the Protector General of Emigrants at Delhi. In case of doubt, contact the nearest Protector of Emigrants' Office.

- Do ensure that your recruiting agent has the original of the following document:

- (i) The Power of Attorney duly executed by the Foreign Employer authorizing the agent to recruit workers on his behalf;

- (ii) The Demand letter indicating the type of workers required by him and salaries/perquisites offered by him to the workers;

- (iii) The specimen copy of the employment agreement proposed to be executed; and

- (iv) Visa issued in your name/favour by the foreign Government.

- Do ensure that the employment documents are attested by the Indian Mission in the country of employment, if you are going as an unskilled worker/Household Service Worker.

- Do ensure that you have with you a copy of the employment agreement signed between you and your foreign employer or his agent.

- Do ensure that the employment agreement clearly specifies the name and complete postal address of your employer, salaries per month in foreign currency, duration of contract/agreement, facility for free/subsidized housing, messing or allowances in lieu thereof, to and fro passage, medical facility, etc.

Do ensure that in case of employment in the Gulf countries, the employment agreement is both in English and Arabic.

- Do ensure that you have opened a Savings Bank Account in one of the banks in India before departure in order to ensure smooth inflow of remittances for your dependents in India.

- Do ensure that you have a proper ticket and a valid visa stamped on your passport before you emplane.

- Do ensure that you are familiar with the provisions of the local labour laws. You may either request your agent or contact the nearest Protector of Emigrants for this purpose.

- Do ensure that you have been briefed by your Recruiting Agent about the working/living conditions in the country of employment.

- Do ensure that after your arrival in the country of employment you have obtained resident permit/identity card.

- Do ensure that you have obtained a copy of the contract.

- In case of any difficulty, do contact the Indian Mission in the country of employment.
- Do note that before final departure for India on termination of contract, you contact the Indian Mission in respective countries for latest customs and baggage regulations etc.
- Do ensure that a copy of your passport is available with you and your family back home.

DON'TS

- Do not pay any money to your agent without obtaining a valid receipt.
- Do not sign the employment agreement unless you have read it or it has been read out to you and you have understood all the clauses in it.
- Do not sign any blank paper on your arrival in the country of employment or allow the employer to execute any agreement other than the one signed by you in India and registered with the Protector of Emigrants.
Do not leave India unless you are satisfied that your employer knows the exact date and time of your arrival so that you are not stranded there.
- Do not indulge in any collective industrial action like strikes, go-slow and mass demonstrations etc. while in employment abroad as they are illegal and strictly banned. Your involvement in any such activities may result in your imprisonment or deportation back to India.
- Do not change your sponsor/employer in the foreign country during the period of agreement. Otherwise, you are liable to fine and other action under the local labour laws.
- Do not indulge in non-Islamic religious practices during your stay in those countries like eating, drinking, or smoking in public places during the month of Ramzan.
- Do not keep in your possession or consume alcoholic drinks during your stay in the Gulf countries as it is strictly prohibited by the respective Governments.
- Do not part with your passport and other documents during your stay abroad.
- Do not move away from the work site without valid identity card issued by your employer.
- Do not fall prey to touts/sub-agents who may exploit you.

The Ministry of External Affairs recognizes that people are an important resource of our country and continues to make efforts to promote and facilitate emigration of people for employment abroad. For promoting, protecting and preserving the health, safety and welfare of Indian nationals abroad we welcome your further suggestions.

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Appendix-I

List of 174 countries which do not require Emigration Clearance (ECNR Countries)

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao ,People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia,

Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria,

Appendix-II

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHERE EMIGRATION CLEARANCE IS REQUIRED (ECR Countries)

- 1) Afghanistan,
- 2) Bahrain,
- 3) Indonesia,
- 4) Iraq, [presently suspended]
- 5) Jordan,
- 6) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
- 7) Kuwait,
- 8) Lebanon,
- 9) Libya, [presently suspended]
- 10) Malaysia,
- 11) Oman,
- 12) Qatar,
- 13) South Sudan,
- 14) Sudan,
- 15) Syria,
- 16) Thailand,
- 17) United Arab Emirates, and
- 18) Yemen [presently suspended].
