

Pay arrears to all workers, Saudi king orders companies

TNN | Aug 9, 2016, 03.58 AM IST



NEW DELHI: Saudi ruler, King Salman has reportedly ordered that wages of foreign workers be paid and their return to their home countries be facilitated by the Saudi government.

According to Arab media, the king has set aside SR100 million to pay arrears to the workers, in line with the country's wage protection programme. According to a website, sabq.org, "the directive is for the government not to release what it owes those companies unless the Labor Ministry confirms that the companies have paid on time what they owe their employees."

Sources in the Indian government confirmed the development, stressing the promptness with which the Saudi government has moved to address the issue is a direct consequence of King Salman's personal relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As the economic slowdown hits businesses across the GCC states, more workers will find themselves laid off in coming months. The Indian embassy has been making a list of workers who are owed money by their erstwhile employers so as to make a legal case for claims from them. Some workers have marched through the streets of Jeddah in protest, an unusual sight in Saudi Arabia.

