

NATIONAL

Tweet us your problems, MEA tells Indian workers in the Gulf

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NEW DELHI: JANUARY 20, 2017 00:48 IST

UPDATED: JANUARY 20, 2017 00:48 IST

Indian workers abroad can now get the government to punish erring recruitment agents with emails and social media messages.

Speaking about the ongoing e-migrate project aimed at protecting the rights of Indian workers in the Gulf, a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs said the emigration process would be made further stringent to protect workers from abuse and financial hardships.

“Through the e-migrate system we take instant action against recruiting agents whenever they break rules. We often find videos on social media showing hardships. Some of these

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agent, and the employer of the person, said M.C. Luther, Protector General of Emigrants, adding, “if the recruitment agents misbehave, you have to send us just an email or a tweet.”

Apart from reports of domestic abuse of Indian and other south Asian workers, in recent months, there have been widespread reports of violation of workers’ rights and salary denial in some of the major countries in the Gulf region. Indian workers were retrenched in large numbers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait last year leading to personal intervention by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Last weekend, Bahrain saw a protest by Indian workers over denial of salaries and dues. Mr. Luther said the e-migrate system was being geared up to prevent workers from landing in financial difficulties.

“We act when there is a human rights violation [regarding the workers]. We can alert the recruiting agent immediately so that he can go and rescue the worker. We can take steps against the foreign employer and put him on the prior approval category list so that both the agent and the employer will behave, failing which we can take necessary steps,” Mr. Luther said in a special presentation to highlight the e-migrate system, which was introduced in 2014 to deal with the rising labour rights violations.

Printable version | Jan 20, 2017 9:56:03 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Tweet-us-your-problems-MEA-tells-Indian-workers-in-the-Gulf/article17063489.ece>

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