

Indian embassy in Kuwait recognizes six agencies to recruit nurses from India

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The proposal is aimed at stopping private agents from charging exorbitant fees from nurses seeking a job in Gulf countries. Furnishing details of nurses working in Gulf countries as on 19 December 2017, the Indian government said Saudi Arabia was the biggest employer with 3,621 Indian nurses under Emigration Check Required (ECR) category working there, followed by Qatar with 350 nurses and Kuwait with a 118 workers.



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had recently unearthed a Rs. 200 crore scam and arrested Varghese Uthup, a Kuwait-based recruiter. Uthup's Kochi based firm was charging Rs. 19.5 lakh to recruit nurses in Kuwait instead of Rs. 19,500 as service charge.

In another incident, an advertisement was circulated on social media sites in the north eastern states of India offering job opportunities for nurses in the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health and the Kuwait Oil Company. The Manipur government had issued a statement that time saying that the advertisement was put up without the involvement of authorized state-run agencies and to dupe prospective nurses in the country, financially or otherwise.

The Indian embassy in Kuwait that time had informed that the agency mentioned in the advertisement is not registered under Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983 and hence was not authorised to carry out overseas recruitment business as they did not have the valid registration certificate.

According to the news reported by Firstpost, the Indian embassy in Kuwait has now recognized six state-run agencies to recruit nurses from India. "In a bid to streamline the recruitment process and keep away the unscrupulous agents who fleece applicants, we have submitted a proposal to the Kuwaiti government. They have accepted it. We are working on the procedures. Soon, the recruitment will be done only through six state-run agencies," said a senior official at the embassy to Firstpost.

The proposal is aimed at stopping private agents from charging exorbitant fees from nurses seeking a job in Gulf countries. Furnishing [details](#) of nurses working in Gulf countries as on 19 December 2017, the Indian government said Saudi Arabia was the biggest employer with 3,621 Indian nurses under Emigration Check Required (ECR) category working there, followed

by Qatar with 350 nurses and Kuwait with a 118 workers.

The six state-run agencies in India authorized for the recruitment of Indian nurses abroad are Norka-Roots Centre and Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants in Thiruvananthapuram, Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd in Chennai, UP Financial Corporation in Kanpur, Telangana Overseas Manpower Company in Hyderabad and the Overseas Manpower Company in Vijayawada.

Six state-run agencies had been recognised by the Indian government for the recruitment of nurses to 18 ECR countries in 2015. But despite the Indian government taking several other steps to prevent nurses from being duped by emigration-related fraudsters, including a mandatory ECR requirement, migrant rights activists in India said the number of nurses migrating through unofficial channels and private agencies remain high.

Activists say nurses opting to migrate to Kuwait are charged anywhere between Rs 10 and 15 lakh by unauthorised private agencies. While they manage to get the job they were looking for at times, in most cases, they are cheated of their money and denied basic working rights on reaching the Gulf nation.

“Once the government plan is put in place, job seekers will have to pay only Rs 30,000 for the recruitment process,” said the embassy official, adding that there are at least 5,000 nursing job opportunities coming up in Kuwait.