OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Female domestic workers in Kuwait from a few States.

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has recently pointed out the plight of female domestic workers from a few States of India, in particular:

- non-payment of even the paltry salary, in many cases;
- no right to return for domestic or personal reasons;
- dismal working conditions, including absence of stipulated working hours or leaves;
- large number of complaints received in the Embassy regarding mental or physical abuse and other forms of exploitations;
- difficulties in redressing grievances in absence of Labour Law for domestic workers in Kuwait.

2. The Embassy has pointed out that there are over 90,000 female domestic workers from India in Kuwait, most of them from Kadapa and East and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh, and a few from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. In light of the aforementioned difficulties related to the female domestic workers in Kuwait, the Embassy has stopped attesting their employment contract. However, a significant number of them still manage to come to Kuwait through various channels and become susceptible to exploitations.

3. Issues in this regard were discussed during the recent visit of Hon’ble Speaker of Andhra Pradesh to Kuwait.

4. The Embassy of India in Kuwait has suggested that immediate steps be taken by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana to stop female domestic workers travelling illegally from these states to Kuwait in the absence of safety and protection of their interest. It also suggested that suitable campaigns in a sustained manner may be undertaken in States and districts by the authorities concerned to apprise the intending emigrants about dismal conditions of employment and adverse local regulations in Kuwait for female domestic workers.

5. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is requested to take up the matter with the State Governments concerned. Wherever required, this Ministry would be happy to assist.

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Copy to:
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2) Shri Veena Ish, Special Resident Commissioner, Government of Andhra Pradesh, New Delhi
3) Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Resident Commissioner, Government of Kerala, New Delhi
4) Shri Jasbir Singh Bajaj, Pr. Resident Commissioner, Government of Tamil Nadu, New Delhi
5) Shri Shashank Goel, Resident Commissioner, Government of Telangana, New Delhi