

Summary

Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment was established in 1971 by merging the three government institutions namely Protectorate of Emigrants, Directorate of Seamen Welfare and National Manpower Council. It is comprised of Directorates of Administration, Finance, Operations, Research & Coordination, and Information Technology. It controls, regulates, facilitates and monitors the emigration process through seven of its regional offices, namely Protectorates of Emigrants located at Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Malakand, Peshawar and Quetta.

Since its inception, it has registered and facilitated more than 9.6 million Pakistanis proceeding abroad for employment throughout the world especially to GCC countries. More than 96 % of the Pakistani manpower is working in GCC countries where Saudi Arabia (50.90%) and UAE (33.10%) are the largest destination countries followed by Oman (7.26%), Kuwait (1.90%), Bahrain (1.58%), and Qatar (1.41%). During 2016, the pattern of migration was similar to the previous trend. Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP's) and Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) have been playing a vital role for export of Pakistani manpower.

The overseas Pakistanis are playing a pivotal role to support the economy in the form of remittances. Remittances constitute one of the largest and more resilient sources of foreign exchange earnings. The flow of foreign remittances to Pakistan has grown steadily over the past years rising from 8905 million dollars in 2009-10 to 19,954 million dollars in 2015-16. During (July-January) of FY 2016-17, overseas Pakistanis sent 10.95 billion US dollars remittances. To facilitate the smooth and efficient flow of remittances, Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) was launched by Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Ministry of Finance and State Bank of Pakistan.

BE&OE is in liaison with the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), Skill Development Council (SDC) and various other institutes for skill development and certification of manpower according to international standard.

The various initiatives were undertaken by Bureau/ Ministry of OP&HRD to facilitate the intending emigrants. Overseas Pakistani Foundation (OPF) is striving for the welfare of overseas Pakistanis and their families living in Pakistan. It is mandatory for every intending emigrant to get insurance coverage before proceeding abroad. In this regard, an insurance scheme was introduced in February 1982. The Scheme is being implemented by Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment under Rule 22-A of Emigration Rules 1979 through State Life Insurance Corporation. Under this scheme, every emigrant gets the compulsory insurance coverage of Rs. One million against one time premium of Rs.2000/- for the period of two years. During the year 2016, about 797.78 and 58.14 million rupees were paid against death and disability claims respectively. Moreover, one window facilitation desks were established at international airports of the country to facilitate the migrants and 277 new licenses were issued to OEPs in the year 2016.