

Protector General of Emigrants Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) in the Ministry of External Affairs is the authority responsible for protecting the interests of Indian workers proceeding abroad for employment purposes. PGE is also the Registering Authority to issue Registration Certificate (RC) to the Recruiting Agent (RA) for overseas manpower exporting business. He exercises the following powers; under the Emigration Act, 1983:

- Power to grant the RC under Sections 11 and 12 of the Emigration Act, 1983 and renew the same under Section 13 of the Act.
- Power to suspend, cancel and revoke the RC under Section 14 of the Act.
- Power to issue permit to the Foreign Employer (FE) and Project Exporter (PE) under Section 15 (2) of Chapter IV of the Act.
- Power to sanction prosecution for offences and penalties under Sections 24 and 25 of the Act, to CBI or State Police Departments.
- Power to search, seize and detain persons/conveyance, etc. just as conferred to an officer of Customs under the Customs Act, 1962.
- Power to prescribe any return, record or register for the RAs and inspect the same as well at their office under Section 36 of the Act.
- Power of Civil Court under Section 37 of the Act.
- Power to perform all or any of the functions assigned to any Protector of Emigrants under Section 3 (4) of the Act.

In all the above functions the PGE is assisted by 13 field officers also known as the Protector of Emigrants (POEs).