



ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES IN THE RECRUITMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS

The Labor Committee on Foreign Workers in Israel announced recently its decision to enter into an arrangement with the International Immigration Association of Israel for the recruitment of foreign workers. Recruitment will be undertaken under the association's supervision, specially the collection of fees from workers, to prevent the exploitation of workers.

Minister Ehud Olmert of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Welfare said that the Labor Committee came up with the decision because the recruitment of foreign workers in Israel has become an open and lucrative market where the recruitment and collection of fees from the workers are reportedly done abroad.

The Committee had issued the following policy guidelines on the recruitment of foreign workers:

1. An additional 300 foreign workers in agriculture will be allotted over the existing government quota. The additional quota will be given within the framework of benefits to foreign workers who are settlers in Gush Katif in Israel.
2. Employers of foreign workers in special jobs will be exempted from paying the salary of NIS 5,000. They will only pay the minimum salary.
3. The requirements in the employment of foreign experts in Israel, such as representatives of international companies, medical workers, and researchers in universities, will be facilitated. Their employers will also be exempted from paying the special fees for hiring foreign workers.

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