Govt intervention helps Indian nurses save their jobs in UAE

The Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Ministry of external affairs, New Delhi, have come to the aid of hundreds of Indian nurses employed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who could have either lost their jobs or got demoted.

First Secretary (Community Affairs) at the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, Dinesh Kumar told TOI on Thursday over telephone that the UAE government had earlier made it mandatory that new recruits in the government hospital should have passed a three-and-half year nursing diploma course. Most of the Indian nurses who have passed out before 1990 have undergone only a two year-diploma course. Those nurses were demoted to the post of practical nurse from registered nurse which affected their pay scale.

The diplomatic mission received 1,500 requests for the Indian mission to speak to the UAE Ministry of health to ease the tension and strain the nurses were going through. we worked in tandem with the ministry of external affairs and Kerala NRI commission first member Dr Shamsheer Vayalil also played a crucial role" the envoy said.

"We presented our case to the ministry. On Tuesday, we received a confirmation from the ministry of health UAE saying all nurses would be reinstated to their post of registered nurse." But from now on any nurse wanting to join the government hospitals in the UAE will have to pass a three-and-half year diploma course. Shiny Jose one of the affected nurses said till now there is no reduction our salaries and but getting back our jobs and position is a great feeling".

There are hundreds of nurses from Kerala, Mangalore and other parts of India who are currently employed with government hospitals in the UAE. UAE is largely dependent on India for nurses and they are considered to be hard working, caring and honest.e last fiscal was Rs 26,050 crore.