

‘Omanisation’ last key issue in conclusion of India-Oman FTA talks, says official

The negotiations for the proposed India-Oman free trade deal are nearing conclusion with both sides discussing the last issue of the Gulf country's labour-related 'Omanisation' policy, as New Delhi wants the current regime to remain unchanged for its workers, an official said.

Omanisation is a policy implemented by Oman to boost the employment of its citizens in the private sector. The policy mandates companies to meet specific quotas for hiring Omani nationals. These quotas vary by sector and are

periodically revised. “There is a requirement in Oman for companies to employ a specified percentage of Omani nationals, which varies by sector - 15 per cent or 20 per cent or 30 per cent...What we want is that this current regime of Omanisation should remain permanent for us, so that it does not become more restrictive in the future after the FTA is finalised,” the official said. The talks received a much-needed impetus after the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Muscat in January. PTI