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尼泊尔政府说将禁止30岁以下的妇女到中东地区去工作。推出这一新措施是因为人们对出国打工的尼泊尔年轻妇女受到剥削的状况越来越关注。BBC记者 Jill McGivering 有以下报道：

Officially almost 60,000 Nepalese women are now working in the Middle East but the unofficial estimate is closer to 200,000. Many of them are under 30 years old and will be directly affected by the new ban.

The government's been under **growing pressure** to do more to protect its workers. Women employed in the informal sector as part of a household are very **vulnerable**. Nepal's Embassies in the region say they deal with numerous cases of **alleged** physical or sexual abuse, as well as complaints about unpaid wages and terrible conditions.

Many run **safe houses** to support women who flee their employer's homes. It's only 18 months since the government ended a 12-year ban on all women workers to the Gulf. That was **imposed** after a young woman working in Kuwait committed suicide. Now they're adopting this partial ban in the hope that older women might be less at risk. Nepal has a high unemployment rate and the government is trying to **strike a balance** between protection and allowing women **to pursue** opportunities.

Other countries face the same **dilemma**. Two months ago, Kenya banned its citizens from working in the Middle East because, it said, increasing numbers were being mistreated. Last year, Indonesia introduced a ban on women working as maids in the region. That followed numerous cases of abuse and the execution of an Indonesian maid who was accused of killing her former employer.

Questions

1. How many young Nepalese women are working in the Middle East according to government figures?
2. What's the purpose of the new ban?
3. What does the word 'vulnerable' mean?
4. True or false? The employment rate is low in Nepal.

Vocabulary and definitions

growing pressure	越来越大的压力
vulnerable	容易受到伤害的
alleged	被指称
safe houses	安全避难所
imposed	强制的
strike a balance	找到一种平衡
to pursue	追求
dilemma	困境

Answers to the questions

1. How many young Nepalese women are working in the Middle East according to government figures?

Answer: *60,000.*

2. What's the purpose of the new ban?

Answer: *To protect young Nepalese women from being exploited.*

3. What does the word 'vulnerable' mean?

Answer: *It means being exposed to being hurt physically or emotionally.*

4. True or false? The employment rate is low in Nepal.

Answer: *True. Nepal has a high unemployment rate.*