

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 168
To be answered on 18th February, 2009

INDIANS IN ABROAD JAILS

168. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) the number of Indians including Overseas Indians in jails in various countries, country-wise;
- (b) whether Government has taken up the issue with the respective countries to secure their release;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d) The requisite details are being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 169
To be answered on 18th February, 2009

UNIVERSITY FOR NRIs

169. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) the current status of the proposed University for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the country;
- (b) whether Detailed Project Report, received for the purpose has been examined;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of such scrutiny; and
- (d) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) The task of establishing the proposed PIO/NRI University at Bangalore has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).
- (b) & (c) The Advisory Board constituted to evaluate the Detailed Project Report received from MAHET met on 16.01.2009. The next meeting is scheduled in the first week of March 2009.
- (d) Time frame will be fixed by the Advisory Committee.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 177
To be answered on 18th February, 2009

PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS

177. SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) Convention, 2009 was recently held in Chennai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) Yes sir.

(b)&(c) The 7th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was held at the Chennai Trade Centre from 07.01.2009 to 09.01.2009 in partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was the institutional partner.

The Convention was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 08.01.2009. The valedictory address was delivered by the President on 09.01.2009. The President also conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on 13 distinguished PIOs/NRIs. H.E. Mr. Ramdien Sardjoe, the Vice President of Suriname, was the Chief Guest.

In the inaugural session, the Prime Minister announced that OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) card holders who are qualified professionals- doctors, dentists, pharmacists, engineers, architects and chartered accountants- will have the benefit of practicing their professions in India. He launched a 'Global Knowledge Network', to serve as a 'virtual think-tank' and generate new ideas on issues such as development, education and health care. He also launched a comprehensive e-governance project on migration under which a 'Smart Card' is proposed to be issued to every emigrant worker which would contain vital data on his

work contract, his employer, his insurance etc. to help him out in difficult situations.

Further details of the convention and topics of discussion are given in the attached programme.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 206
To be answered on 18th February, 2009

INCIDENTS OF ATTACK ON INDIANS WORKING IN AFGHANISTAN

206. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether increasing incidents of attack on Indians working for the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Afghanistan have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the past one year;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and to ensure adequate safety and security to the Indians working in Afghanistan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) During 2008, three ITPB personnel and two BRO personnel were killed in incidents in which militants targeted 'Project Zaranj' personnel. The project was completed in September 2008 and the entire work force of BRO including ITBP personnel have returned to India.
- (b) Given in the statement enclosed.

(c) & (d) Our Embassy in Kabul maintains direct liaison with the Ministry of Interior of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on security-related issues concerning India.

(e) Not applicable.

(b) Detailed statement regarding attack on Indians working for Border Road Organization in Afghanistan during 2008.

S.No.	Date of the incident	Details of the incident	Name of the Indian killed
1.	January 3, 2008	The suicide attack took place on BRO's "Project Zaranj" convoy constructing Zaranj-Delaram road near Gurguri town. In the attack 2 ITBP personnel were killed and 5 others seriously injured.	<p>1. Inspector/GD Manoj Kumar Singh (r/o village Fatehpur, P.O. Raghupur, Tehsil-Hajipur, District Vaishali, Bihar-844508</p> <p>2. Constable/GD Desha Singh, (r/o village Midda, P.O.- Amir Kothi, Tehsil & District Ferozepur, Punjab</p>
2.	April 12, 2008	A convoy (consisting of Pilot Escort, two Town Ace, road roller and earth paving equipments) of the BRO working party (Berm Filling/Road marking) was on its way from Minar camp to Delaram, a suicide bomber targeted the convoy at Kms 59500 on Delaram-Zaranj road (in Nimroz province), 500 meters ahead of BRO's camp Minar towards Delaram, by blowing himself up.	In the attacks BRO personnel Suptd(BRII) Shri Mahendra Pratap Singh was killed on the spot and another BRO personnel Mason Shri G. Govindaswamy succumbed to his injuries on way to Medical Inspection Room Gurguri.
3.	June 5, 2008	At 1620 hrs, project convoy after performing the duty at Razai Quarry site was approaching the camp (Gurguri complex) just hundred meters before Gurguri complex , Ct. Dev Kumar got down from the vehicle and took position to stop the civil vehicles movement on the road. In the	CT/GD Dev Kumar S/o Shri Dan Shay DoB 3.8.68 (No. 880185704 8th Bn. ITBP)- lost his life in the explosion.

		<p>meantime suddenly Dev Kumar saw one Toyota Corolla vehicle coming from opposite direction with tremendous speed. He gave signal to stop the vehicle and when he observed that the vehicle did not stop, he fired three rounds at the vehicle. Meanwhile , two ITBP personnel also fired one bullet each at the vehicle. The suicide bomber in Corolla vehicle managed to come close to the convoy vehicle and exploded his vehicle borne IED. Dev Kumar was just near to the vehicle and blown with the heavy blast of VBIED and lost his life at the spot.</p>	
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Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 231
To be answered on 18th February, 2009

SCHOLARSHIP TO NRI CHILDREN

231. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of undergraduate scholarships to the children of Indians living abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of applications received from various countries including the Gulf countries; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) There is no proposal to increase the number of undergraduate Scholarship for the Children of Indians living abroad under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC).
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The number of applications received from various countries including Gulf Countries for the academic year 2009-10 is 421 ---331 from Non Resident Indians and 90 from Persons of Indian Origin.

(d) The common Entrance Examination for SPDC- 2009 was conducted for the eligible applicants at respective Embassies/ High Commissions/Consulates of India on October 26, 2008. Based on their performance at the Common Entrance Test, 126 candidates have been offered scholarship under the Scheme.

Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 667
To be answered on 25th February, 2009

DECLINE IN FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

667. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether there has been a sizeable decline in the investments made by Non- Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) in the country during the last year owing to global recession;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of the investments made by the NRIs, PIOs and OCBs in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and**
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to encourage NRIs, PIOs and OCBs to make more investments in the country?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) No Sir. There has been no decline in the investment due to global recession during 2008 as compared to 2007.

(b) & (c) The data on investment of NRIs, PIOs and OCBs are not centrally maintained. The State-wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Technology Cases (FTCs) during last three calendar years from 2006 to 2008 is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(d) To facilitate greater investment by the Overseas Indians, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has established the Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) as a not-for-profit trust in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). OIFC organizes the investor meets in India and abroad to attract investment from overseas Indians.

**ANNEXURE-I REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 667
FOR 25.02.2009**

**STATEMENT ON CALENDAR YEAR WISE BREAK UP FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)
& FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY CASES (FTCs) APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT
DURING JANUARY 2006 TO SEPTEMBER 2008
COUNTRY NRI**

(Amount in million)

Sl. No	State	2006			2007			2008			Total		
		FIN	FDI in Rs.	FDI in US\$	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FDI in US\$	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FDI in US\$	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FDI in US\$
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	3	156.90	3.39	2	199.64	4.90	5	121.16	3.07	10	477.70	11.36
2.	GUJARAT	1	5.02	0.11	0	0.00	0.00	1	16.80	0.40	2	21.82	0.51
3.	HARAYANA	1	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	0.00
4.	KARNATAKA	2	33,750.50	750.86	1	3.29	0.07	3	17.77	0.43	6	33,771.55	751.36
5.	KERALA	1	0.92	0.02	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	0.92	0.02
6.	MAHARASHTRA	7	255.97	5.76	4	103.20	2.43	0	0.00	0.00	11	359.17	8.19
7.	TAMIL NADU	3	50.75	1.14	2	280.00	7.10	1	0.00	0.00	6	330.75	8.24
8.	UTTAR PRADESH	1	1.80	0.04	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	1.80	0.04
9.	WEST BENGAL	1	9.00	0.20	0	0.00	0.00	1	203.11	5.03	2	212.11	5.24
10.	DELHI	9	271.66	6.10	2	0.00	0.00	2	44.11	1.12	13	315.77	7.22
11.	GOA	1	1.25	0.03	0	0.00	0.00	1	300.00	7.01	2	301.25	7.03
12.	State not indicated	0	0.00	0.00	3	72.00	1.64	0	0.00	0.00	3	72.00	1.64

	Grand Total	30	34,503.77	767.66	14	658.13	16.14	14	702.94	17.06	58	35,864.84	800.86
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**Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 715
To be answered on 25th February, 2009**

AMENDMENT IN THE EMIGRATION ACT, 1983

**715. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:**

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state: प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the proposed amendments in the Emigration Act, 1983 have been finalised;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the proposed amendment; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)**

(a) to (c) The proposed amendments to the Emigration Act, 1983 are currently under finalization. The proposed amendments are intended to facilitate legal emigration, to curb illegal emigration and to make emigration a simple, transparent, efficient and humane process.

**Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 768
To be answered on 25th February, 2009**

WELFARE FUND FOR INDIANS WORKING ABROAD

768. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the Welfare Fund envisaged for the benefit of emigrants has now been constituted;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the details of the measures taken to ensure the safety and security of Indians working abroad?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Ministry has set up an Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide funding support to the Indian Missions in the 17 ECR Countries for meeting contingency expenditure incurred by the Missions for the welfare of Indian workers who are in distress. The ICWF envisages providing a host of welfare measures such as boarding and

lodging for stranded overseas Indian workers, transportation of the mortal remains, emergency medical care, air passage to stranded overseas Indians, etc.

**Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 786
To be answered on 25th February, 2009**

PERMISSION TO OIC CARD HOLDERS FOR PROFESSION

786. SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allow Overseas Indian Citizenship (OIC) card holders to practise their professions in India as reported in *The Hindu* dated 09 January, 2009;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)**

(a) to (c): A notification No. S.O. 36(E) dated 5th January, 2009 granting parity to registered Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) with Non-resident Indians (NRIs) for pursuing their professions as doctors, dentists, nurses, Pharmacists, advocates, architects and chartered accountants, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts, has been issued by the Government on 6th January, 2009.

**Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 794
To be answered on 25th February, 2009**

UTILIZATION OF THE SKILL OF OVERSEAS INDIANS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

794. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to utilize the expertise of the overseas Indian Community for national development; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The Global-Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK), a Diaspora Knowledge Network was launched by the Prime Minister in the last Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention in Chennai on 8th January, 2009. Global INK will connect people of Indian Origin from a variety of disciplines, recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the National and sub-national levels in India. The

network would serve as a high level electronic platform to facilitate knowledge transfer from wherever it may be based without the overseas experts having to relocate. The network will serve as a strategic virtual think tank. The outcome targeted will be the germination of ideas on development, identification of the key elements in addressing the challenges to development and articulating and mapping out solutions through innovation and technological/interventions.

(ii) Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of people of Indian Origin

Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of people of Indian origin is a high level committee to draw upon the experience and the knowledge of eminent people of Indian origin in diverse fields from across the world. It has been constituted to serve as a platform to draw upon the experience, knowledge and wisdom of the best Indian minds.

**Government of India
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 799
To be answered on 25th February, 2009**

MOU WITH OVERSEAS COUNTRIES ON MANPOWER

799. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any overseas country for protecting the interests of the Overseas Indians working in these countries; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the countries with whom MoUs are proposed to be signed?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India had signed labour agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s. An MoU in the field of Manpower was signed with UAE on 13th December 2006 and with Kuwait on 10th April 2007. MoU in the field of Manpower with Oman was signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Oman on 8th November, 2008. MoU on Employment of Workers was signed with Malaysia on 3rd January, 2009. A similar MoU with Bahrain on Labour and Manpower Development has been finalized and will be signed soon.
