

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1545**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/02/2023

**SCHOLARSHIPS TO PERSONS OF INDIAN ORIGIN**

1545. SHRI RAMALINGAM S.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has taken any new initiatives or framing policies to encourage the diaspora to contribute in India's growth through philanthropy, knowledge transfers, and investments in development projects, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries under the Madad Portal for timely and speedy action on grievances addressed by people living abroad during the last five years; and
- (c) the list of beneficiaries under Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) under which 100 scholarships per annum are granted to Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) during the last two years?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) The Government has brought about a transformational change in its engagement with the Indian diaspora. The 32 million strong Indian diaspora is an invaluable partner in the growth and progress of the nation. The various schemes and programmes being conducted by the Government including Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conventions, PBD Conferences, Regional PBDs, Youth PBDs, Know India Programme, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children, Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora, Bharat Ko Jaaniye Quiz, Missions' outreach programmes, are undertaken by the Government to facilitate and strengthen diaspora's connect and engagement with India.

The Government's policies are aimed at harnessing the diaspora potential to its fullest, including through transfer of technology and expertise. Ongoing economic reforms and flagship programmes viz Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, provide an enabling environment for our Diaspora to contribute to the growth and development of India.

As per information available with the Ministry, 52,704 grievances registered with Missions and Posts abroad on the MADAD portal have been redressed during the last five years.

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