

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1313  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004  
PRAVASI BHARATIYA BHAWAN  
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

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

- (a) whether our late Prime Minister Pt. Nehru had plans to set up a Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawan;
- (b) if so, the proposed objectives thereof;
- (c) the present status of the said proposal;
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be made functional; and
- (e) the manner in which it is likely to prove beneficial for NRIs?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER)

- (a) & b) The idea of a Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawan had been put forward by the late Shri Prakashvir Shastri in a letter to the former PM, the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Pandit Nehru had replied to Shri Shastri just two days before his death greatly appreciating it as an idea deserving implementation. Shri Shastri had planned to register a Trust for this purpose and several eminent had agreed to be Trustees. Unfortunately, with the passing away of Shri Shastri, the idea could not be translated into reality.
- (c) Following the recommendations of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora and the announcement of the then PM at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2004, action has been taken to get suitable land allotted for the proposed Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.
- (d) The design and drawings of the proposed Kendra are likely to be finalized in the next financial year and work tendered out thereafter. The Kendra is expected to be functional in about two years thereafter.
- (e) The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra would become the focal point of interactions between India and its Diaspora. It would house facilities for harnessing the vast talent among the Overseas Indians including a library, documentation center, an exhibition complex, auditorium, visitors rooms etc.