

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:413

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005

DUAL CITIZENSHIP TO PIO

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Nair Shri P.K. Vasudevan;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Singh Shri Mohan;Vijay Krishna Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to continue the dual citizenship registration for People of Indian Origin (PIO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the countries where PIOs have been allowed to have dual citizenship;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to simplify the procedure;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the rules likely to be adopted for this purpose and the benefits they will be entitled to as a result thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to build a global Indian family and strengthen bonds with the Diaspora by involving them in rehabilitation and reconstruction work ?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Citizenship Act, 1955 has been amended to provide for registration of Persons of Indian Origin from 16 specified countries who fulfill specified criteria as Overseas Citizens of India.
- (c) The sixteen countries where PIOs have been allowed Overseas Indian citizenship under the Act are Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Cyprus, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
- (d) Yes, Sir
- (e) It is under consideration.
- (f) New Rules are being framed.
- (g) A special interactive session on Disaster Management was held during Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas 2005, where ways and means were explored to involve the Diaspora in relief and rehabilitation work.