

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:330

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS

Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin; Singh Shri Sukhdev

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

- (a) whether the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas was recently organized in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the decisions arrived therein;
- (c) the rationale behind organizing this event every year;
- (d) the details of the investments made by NRIs in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (e) whether some trade unions and Non-Government Organisations have opposed the meet;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor: and
- (g) the steps taken or discussed to address the grievances made by migrants of Indian origin in different countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA)

- (a): Yes Sir. The 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention was held in New Delhi from 7-9 January, 2010.
- (b): The Convention had three Plenary Sessions and six concurrent sessions beside 11 separately individual state sessions. The themes of the three plenary sessions were :
 - (i) Diaspora: Role and Expectations,
 - (ii) Diaspora: Interests and Concerns
 - (iii) Skills Development. The themes for the six concurrent sessions were: (i) Returning to 9% Growth: Diaspora Connect,(ii) Leveraging Knowledge Networks: Global-Ink,(iii) Thousands of Fireflies: Diaspora Philanthropy, (iv) Diaspora Women in Cross-Cultural Environments, (v) Indians and the Gulf and (vi) Future of PBDs and the Road Ahead. These sessions provided a forum for structured deliberations centered around the chosen themes.
- (c): The rationale behind organizing this event every year is to provide a common platform for the vast overseas Indian community to meet each other, as also the Indian leadership and deliberate on matters of interest and concern to them.
- (d): No separate data of investment made by NRIs is maintained by this Ministry.
- (e) to (f): Though there were media reports of protests organized by some trade unions/NGOs, no memorandum/appeal was received from such organizations by the Government of India.
- (g): All issues raised by delegates and participants at the various sessions held during the PBD convention were taken note of.