

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:386

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

. VOTING RIGHTS TO NRIS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Deora Shri Milind Murl;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to give voting rights to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of NRIs likely to get voting rights;
- (c) the details of the modalities/strategy being worked out in this regard;
- (d) whether these NRIs will be permitted to contest elections;
- (e) if so, the details thereof: and
- (f) the time by which the NRIs are likely to get voting rights?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 2006. The Bill seeks to amend section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) to enable Indian citizens who are absent from their place of ordinary residence in India owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside the country, to get their names registered in the electoral rolls of the constituency of their place of ordinary residence in India to be able to cast their votes in the Parliamentary/State elections. The Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law & Justice on the 26th March, 2006 for examination and report. The Committee presented its 16th report on the subject to the Rajya Sabha/laid it in the Lok Sabha on the 4th August, 2006 and, while agreeing with the letter and spirit of the amendment, has recommended for bringing a comprehensive Bill on the subject containing all the details regarding the manner of enrolment of the Non-Resident Indians, the mode of voting and the conditions for contesting elections. The Report is with Ministry of Law and Justice for further action.