

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:240  
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011  
MINI PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS  
Balram Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has attended the Mini Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in South African city of Durban recently;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof alongwith the details of places where it was held during the last three years; and
- (c) the manner in which it was useful to our country in terms of attracting funds from each country during the above period?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Africa was held from 1-2 October, 2010 at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Durban, South Africa. The event was inaugurated on 1st October, 2010 by the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs. The President of South Africa Mr. Jacob Zuma graced the closing session on 2nd October 2010. The theme of the Conference was on 'India-Africa: Building Bridges.' PBD Africa marked the 150th anniversary of the arrivals of Indians in South Africa and coincided with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The pre-convention events on 1st October 2010 were 'Business Round Table Conference' and an Academic Seminar on 'Diaspora: Heritage in the Context of Globalisation'. There were five Plenary Sessions on 2nd October 2010 beginning with the Opening Plenary. 'The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the 21st Century' followed by sessions on 'Business: Opportunity Africa, 'Education, Youth and Gender: Leveraging Knowledge and Technology for Social Development,' 'Diaspora: Heritage in the Context of Globalisation' and a 'Valedictory Session'.

This was the 4th regional PBD Convention organized by Government of India outside India. The first such event was held on 24th September, 2007 in New York, the second on 10-11 October, 2008 in Singapore and the third on 19 September, 2009 at The Hague.

(c) The two day Convention was attended by more than 400 delegates from Africa. The Business Roundtable on 'Opportunity Africa' at ICC Durban was attended by over 100 prominent business leaders and professionals from India and Africa. The possibility of enhancing economic and trade relations between India and Africa and particularly South Africa were discussed in the meeting focusing on four crucial sectors: IT, skills enhancement and education; pharmaceuticals; mining and minerals and infrastructure. The Convention was useful for facilitating the possibility of overseas investment in India.