

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2487  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009  
INFORMATION CENTRES FOR NRIS  
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up information centres for NRIs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places identified for the purpose;
- (c) the time by which such centres are likely to be established;
- (d) whether discussions have been held with the States in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereto;
- (f) whether any study has been conducted regarding the utility of such centres; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (g) There is no proposal to set up information Centers for NRIs in the Country.

However Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Govt of India has set up an Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) as a not-for-profit-trust, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Center is a 'one stop shop' for serving the interests of the Overseas Indian community and has the mandate to cover two broad areas viz: Investment Facilitation and Knowledge Networking.

The objectives of the Centers are:

- # Promote Overseas Indian investment into India and facilitate business partnership, by giving authentic and real time information
- # Function as clearinghouse for all investment related information. This would be done by processing information on a real time basis through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform
- # Establish and maintain a Diaspora Knowledge Network (DKN) by creating a database of Overseas Indians, who would act as knowledge Diaspora and whose knowledge resources could be using ICT platform
- # Assist States in India to project investment opportunities to overseas Indians in the infrastructure and social sectors. The objectives of the OIFC will be to bring the Indian States, Indian Business and potential Overseas Investors on the same platform and to facilitate the investors to identify the investment opportunities
- # Provide a host of advisory services to PIO and NRIs. These could include matters such as consular questions, stay in India, investment and financial issues etc.

An Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been set up as a helpline for assistance and protection of Indians working abroad and prospective emigrants with following objectives:

- # Information dissemination on matters relating to emigration
- # Registering, responding to and monitoring complaints received from emigrant workers
- # Grievance redressal and follow up with stakeholders

A Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) has been established in Kochi, Kerala to work as a walk in counseling centre and telephonic helpline for information dissemination and grievance redressal of the Overseas Indian Workers.