

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:527

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh

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

- (a) whether the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held at Kochi in January, 2013;
- (b) the details of key decisions taken at the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas held at Kochi in January, 2013;
- (c) the details of the suggestions made by NRIs, OCIs and others from various countries to boost domestic and foreign investment accelerate project implementation and reform capital market;and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held at Kochi, Kerala from 7-9 January, 2013.
- (b) PBD Conventions provide the largest platform to PIOs and NRIs for exchange of views and networking on matters of common interest. The PBD Convention is not a decision making forum. However an announcement was made at the inaugural session by the Hon'ble PM to upgrade the Ghadar Memorial at San Francisco into a functional museum and library with a sculpture to honour the Ghadar Babas.
- (c) Several suggestions were made during PBD 2013 and these included –
 - (i) Increasing the weight of Gold allowed to be brought while coming back to India.(ii) Retention of NRI status to save taxes when NRIs return to India. (iii) Need to update skills to ensure the growth of individuals and the State. (iv) Tourism related infrastructure to be developed.(v) Air India should develop a policy with focus on Overseas Indian Travelers.
- (d) The suggestions mentioned above are vital inputs while framing policies in the Ministry/Department.