

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1530

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013

VOTING RIGHTS TO NRIS

Biju Shri P. K.;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

(a) the current status of registration of overseas Indian electors;

(b) whether the Government proposes to speed up the process so that NRIs can cast their votes in the coming 16th Lok Sabha Election;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) As per the electoral rolls, 2013 the total number of Overseas Indian Electors is 11,328.

(b) & (c) So far as the steps taken are as follows:

(i) Detailed instructions have been issued by Election Commission of India to the Electoral Registration Officers for registration of Overseas Indian electors. Monthly record of registration of overseas electors is also maintained by the Electoral Registration Officers.

(ii) Ministry of External Affairs issued letters to 15 Head of Missions in countries where the Non- Resident Indians (NRIs) population exceeds 1 Lakh i.e. Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America to facilitate enrolment of NRI electors.

(iii) The enrolment Form 6A can be obtained / downloaded from the website of Election Commission of India. Postal addresses of all Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) are also available on the website of Election Commission.

(iv) The Election Commission has also started online registration of overseas electors on its official website i.e. www.eci.nic.in.

(d) In view of above, question does not arise.