

1

**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

(2009-2010)

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2009-2010)**

FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

November, 2009/Agrahanya, 1931(Saka)

FIRST REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2009-2010)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2009-2010)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 3rd December, 2009.
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 2009.



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

November, 2009/ Agrahanya, 1931(Saka)

COEA NO. 78

Price : Rs.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2009-10).....	(ii)
INTRODUCTION.....	(iii)
REPORT	
PART – I	
BACKGROUND ANALYSIS	
I. Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations.....	01
PART – II	
II. Overall Budgetary Proposals	
A. Budgetary Allocation and Utilization.....	02
. Secretariat General Service.....	06
C. Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC).....	08
D. Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE).....	11
E. Grant-in-aid to other Institutions.....	18
F. Pre-departure Orientation and Skill Upgradation for Emigrant Workers...	22
G. Know India Programme (KIP).....	22
H. Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC)	24
I. Legal Assistance to Women Facing Problems in NRI Marriages.....	26
J. Construction of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (P B K).....	28
K. Working of Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) Offices	30
L. Investment by Overseas Indians.....	30
M. Labour Mobility Partnership(LMP).....	31
N. Emigration Act 1983.....	39
O. Setting up of PIO NRI Universities.....	40
P. Bilateral Social Security Agreement/Cooperation with other countries.....	41
Q. Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006.....	43
R. Effect of Global Economic Recession.....	46
PART – III	
Recommendations/ Observations of the Committee	47
APPENDICES	
III. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 30.10.2009	59
IV. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 17.11.2009	61

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2009-2010)**

Smt. Sushma Swaraj – Chairperson

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri S. Alagiri (Cuddalore)
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Shri T.K.S. Elangovan
6. Shri Vishwa Mohan Kumar
7. Shri Pradeep Majhi
8. Shri Pinaki Misra
9. Shri Zafar Ali Naqvi
10. Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
11. Shri Digvijay Singh
12. Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh
13. Smt. Supriya Sule
14. Shri Janardhana Swamy
15. Shri Takam Sanjoy
16. Shri Bhisma Shankar alias Kushal Tiwari
17. Shri Shivkumar Udasi
18. Vacant
19. Vacant
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

Rajya Sabha

22. Dr. Karan Singh
23. Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil
24. Shri Ashwani Kumar
25. Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla
26. Shri Shreegopal Vyas
27. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
28. Shri Shivanand Tiwari
29. Shri Bharatkumar Raut
30. Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta
31. Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Shri U.S. Saxena | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.K. Jain | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Hoti Lal | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri K.C. Pandey | - | Executive Officer |
| 5. | Shri Manoj Pahuja | - | Sr. Executive Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this First Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2009-10) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2009-10.

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 30.10. 2009.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this report at their sitting held on 17.11.2009. Minutes of the sittings of the Committee held on 30.10.2009 and 17.11.2009 are given in Annexure I and II to this Report.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for placing before them the material and information which they desired in connection with examination of the Demands for Grants (2009-10). The Committee also wish to express their thanks in particular to the representatives of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs appearing before the Committee and placing their considered views before them.

NEW DELHI
27th November, 2009
Agrahayana 06,1931(Saka)

Sushma Swaraj,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on External Affairs

PART - I
BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The 21st Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on "Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2008-2009 was presented to the Lok Sabha on 16th April, 2008 and laid in the Rajya Sabha on 15th April, 2008. The Report contained 13 recommendations/ observations.

1.2 In compliance of the Direction 73-A of the Directions by the Speaker, the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs made a statement in the House on 22nd October, 2008 giving the status of the implementation of various recommendations/ observations made by the Committee in their 21st Report. An analysis of the Minister's statement showed that the Government has accepted all the 13 recommendations. Out of these, 11 recommendations (Nos. 1,2,3,4,6,7,9,10,11,12 and 13) were under process and 2 recommendations (Nos. 5 and 8) were to be implemented by the Government.

1.3 On the basis of Action Taken Replies received from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 21st Report, the Committee presented their 23rd Report (Action Taken Report) to Parliament on 18th December, 2008. The Committee in their 23rd Report have commented on the Action Taken Replies furnished by the Ministry in respect of recommendations Nos. 3,4,8,9 and 11 contained in the 21st Report. The final replies have been received from the Ministry and will be laid in Parliament.

PART-II

II. OVERALL BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

A. Budgetary Allocation and Utilization

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was established in 2004 to build closer and wide ranging ties between India and its Overseas Indian community. The symbiotic connection of India and the Diaspora works in both directions – the Diaspora's engagement with India as well as India's engagement with the Diaspora. The strands of their '*Indianness*' and common heritage can be further strengthened to create a resilient bond of robust exchange. Over the last five years, the Ministry has undertaken a number of policy initiatives and has taken up a wide variety of programmes and schemes to fulfill its mandate. The Ministry has also grown with the posting of the sanctioned strength of Officers and staff. The Budget of the Ministry is fully on the Non Plan side. The Ministry is now well placed to ensure that the financial and physical targets are achieved and the targeted outcomes of its programmes and schemes are met. The focus of the Ministry to achieve its mandate has been the following three parameters:

- (a) Contain Administrative Expenditure.
- (b) Increase allocations for Programmes and Schemes.
- (c) Maximize the productivity of scheme expenditure through partnerships.

2.2 The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is a young Ministry. The year 2008-2009 was the fifth Budget year of this Ministry with BE of Rs. 65 crore and RE of Rs. 45 crore. For the year 2009-2010, the Budget Estimate for the Ministry is Rs. 80 crore.

2.3 Outlining the overall Budgetary proposals of the Ministry for 2009-2010, the Secretary, MOIA during the evidence, stated as follows:

"Our effort over the last five years has been to further the engagement with the Indian Diaspora. Our effort has primarily been on three fronts. One is to establish a robust institutional arrangement for a sustainable and mutually beneficial engagement between India and its overseas community. The second has been to pursue bilateral agreements with various other countries for the benefit of overseas Indians, in all the countries where there is a substantial Indian population. And the third has been to build partnerships with the State Governments because in many matters whether it is relating to potential immigrants or with the overseas community, it is necessary that the State Governments play a very very important role. We have been addressing this issue.

We have basically two major Heads of Accounts on the revenue section and one major head on the capital section. The Budget is a total of Rs.80 crores which is 59 crores on the revenue section and Rs.21 crores on the capital section. Our work is mainly through four organizational divisions.

We had asked for Rs.125 crores and we got Rs.80 crores which is an increase over the previous year's Revised Estimate of Rs.45 crores. Organisationally, we have four divisions – the Emigration Policy Division, Financial Services Division, Diaspora Division and the Social Services Division. Apart from that, we have the office of the Protector General of Emigrants. There are eight field offices of Protectors of Emigrants in various parts of the country. Our biggest constraints have been that we do not have field implementation machinery. We rely entirely on the Missions abroad, the State Governments and various other private or voluntary organizations for the implementation of our work. The second is, in many of the matters where inter-departmental or inter-Ministerial consultations are required, there have been delays. And the third is, we have severe staff shortages. But in spite of these shortages, our effort has been to create a value which is much higher than what would normally be expected from our Budget and the staff strength.”

2.4 The Committee enquired whether the total budget of Rs. 80 crore are sufficient to discharge the mandate of the Ministry, the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during evidence has stated:

“.....Definitely, Budget is a constraint. There is a need for an enhanced Budget which can help us to perform better in the various activities that we have proposed. But, as I mentioned initially, our effort is to create the institutional frameworks which will take care of bulk of these so that we have a value which is much higher than what is normally generated from such investments.....”

2.5 The details of the overall budget allocation and actual utilization by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs are as follows:

Year	BE	RE	Actuals	(Rs. in crore)
				Shortfall in utilization (over BE)
2006-2007	38	26	22	16
2007-2008	50	40	35.4	14.06
2008-2009	65	45	45(Provisional)	20
2009-2010	80	-	-	-

It can be seen from the above table that under utilization of funds is becoming a trend during the past three years.

2.6 On being asked to explain the precise reasons for this underutilization of budgetary allocations by the Ministry and as to whether the increased allocation of Rs. 80 crore during BE 2009-2010 based on actual requirement, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs stated as under:

“(i) The shortfall in expenditure was primarily in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, when the Ministry was still in the process of being established and schemes were under formulation. In particular, the shortfall in the year 2006-07 arose because the process of completing inter-ministerial consultations and of obtaining approvals for the programmes of the ministry took considerable time. The shortfall in the year 2007-08 was essentially due to non-utilization of the budget allocation made for the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra. In the financial year 2008-09 the Budget Estimate of Rs 65 crores was revised downward to Rs 45 crores by the Ministry of finance as a result of a budget cut applied across for all ministries in the last financial year.

The only shortfall, nevertheless, in the FY 2008-2009 was on the capital head of account due to non-utilization of the allocation made for the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra. This was because of delays in statutory approvals including change of land use, building plan approvals and approval of the project by competent authority.

(ii) The increase in the BE 2009-10 is primarily due to the expansion of the activities of the institutions established for the benefit of the overseas Indian community. These include the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC), the Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE), the India Development Foundation, and the Overseas Indian Centres at Abu Dhabi and Washington as well as one in Kuala Lumpur, which is expected to become operational in the current Financial Year.”

2.7 The Committee pointed out that the amount allocated during the last three years on the various schemes of the Ministry was not fully utilized and the Ministry has now asked for enhanced budgetary allocations for 2009-10, the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during evidence has stated:

“....As is obvious to the hon. Committee, the amount available under each head of account is very small. There are very clear plans for utilization of that amount and the utilization of the funds as such is not a difficult thing at all. The only problem is the occasional budgetary cuts also happen as it happened last year. So, budgetary constraints come and sometimes it is necessary and we are forced not to utilize the entire amount. This year our assessment as of now is that we should be able to utilize the entire amount that is allotted to us. But the Budget Estimate, as the hon. Committee is aware, is Rs. 80 crore. There has been a recent cut and now it is limited to Rs. 76 crore.....”

2.8 Further on being asked as to whether the Ministry have chalked out/formulated any comprehensive plan of action so that the funds allocated for the current Financial Year (2009-2010) for the above cited purposes would be utilized fully, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“Yes, the Ministry has chalked out a comprehensive plan of action and the fund allocated for the purpose during the current Financial Year are expected to be fully utilized. (a) The Overseas Indian Centres at Abu Dhabi and Washington are already operational. (b) The activities of institution like India Development Foundation (IDF) have also taken off with its 1st Meeting of Board of Trustees recently and commencement of the work for development of a Portal. (c) The Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE) has already undertaken several studies for the benefit of the workers. (d) The Indian Community Welfare Fund has been established and is operational in 18 countries. (e) Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) has taken up the development of Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK). (f) Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has started functioning 24x7 and an international help line has been started from the UAE.

The other activities of the Ministry like Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Know India Programme (KIP), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cards, Awareness Campaign / Media Plan etc. are going on as per schedule.

- i) So far Ministry has spent Rs.2.40 crores on the expansion of activities of the institutions established for the benefit of the overseas Indian community.
- ii) The Ministry has proposed minor decrease in the total budgetary allocation at RE stage due to mandatory cut to be applied due to economy instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance. The details are given below. Incidentally, it is stated that for the schemes, no cut has been proposed.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Head	Scheme	BE 2009-10	RE 2009-10
1.	2052 – Sectt. General Services	1. Secretariat	21.00	20.07
2.	2061 – External Affairs	3. International Conferences/meetings	1.00	0.90
		4. Entertainment of Dignitaries	0.30	0.10
		5. Other Schemes	30.70	30.70
		6. Celebration of PBD	6.00	6.00
		Total	38.00	37.70
3.	4059 – Cap outlay on pub Works	7. Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra	20.00	18.30
		8. Construction/purchase of buildings for PGE/POEs	1.00	0.20
		Total	21.00	18.50
		Grand Total	80.00	76.27

B. Secretarial General Services

2.9 The Committee observed from the establishment strength shown in the Detailed Demands for Grants that as many as 40 posts in group B, and D are still lying vacant. The same number of posts were lying vacant in the last fiscal year as well. On being asked to explain the reasons for these posts still lying vacant and as to whether the Government is considering to fill up these posts for smooth functioning of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, the Ministry in its reply stated:

“There is no separate cadre of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Cadre Controlling Authority is the Ministry of Home Affairs for the Secretariat Staff, who had been requested to provide the personnel. Some posts encadred in the MEA are vacant. The MEA has shown inability to

provide personnel. Two posts lying vacant are to be filled by the Department of Official Languages. They have been requested to fill up the posts. For the POE offices, the posts are filled up on loan basis by calling applications on all Sectt. basis.

Efforts have been made to fill up these posts for smooth functioning of the Ministry. This Ministry had requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide staff. The Ministry of Home Affairs had informed that all cadre units including Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs are facing shortage of staff and will have to bear with Ministry of Home Affairs till the situation improved. MHA had also intimated that they would try to fill up the vacancies as quickly as possible. The Department of Official Languages has informed that it will provide the personnel as soon as the officers are selected by the SSC.

Applications have already been called for filling up the posts in the POE Offices. Selection Committee will select the persons shortly and offers for joining will be sent after selections are made.

Outsourced staff have currently been deployed against these vacancies to ensure that work does not suffer.”

2.10 Further on being asked as to what is the present status of the proposal for filling up the posts in PoE and is it progressing as per timetable approved or there is any likelihood of delays, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The posts of the level of Under Secretary and below upto LDC are filled up on loan basis by calling applications from the candidates of CSS Cadre from different Ministries/Departments. Posts of POE (Deputy Secretary Level) are filled by DOP&T on Central Deputation basis. Applications were called for the posts of Assistants, UDCs and LDCs of CSS cadre. The selection committee has already selected the candidates for the vacant posts of Assistants and UDCs. The selected candidates have been issued offer letters and are likely to join after they are relieved by their parent Ministries/ Departments.

The posts of LDC’s had also been circulated but selection for all the posts could not be done as the number of applicants were much less than the number of vacancies. Selection of one LDC was done and offer of appointment has been sent. Further it is clarified that recruitment of LDCs have been stopped by the Government. Accordingly, we have instructed all POE offices to fill up the vacant post of LDCs through outsourced staff so that work does not suffer in POE offices.”

C. Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC)

2.11 The allocation in BE 2009–2010 for Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) has been enhanced to 4 crores as against Rs. 95 lakhs of BE 2008-09 for providing information to Overseas Indians. On being asked as to what kind of information the Ministry has proposed to provide online to Overseas Indian, the Ministry in its reply stated:

“The OIFC currently provides all information related to investing in India that a potential overseas Indian investor would need. The queries relating to investments across a wide gamut of sectors are replied through the OIFC web site. In addition, where requests are received, the OIFC also provides hand- holding services.

The OIFC is now developing the Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK), an electronic platform that will serve as a knowledge network and enable knowledge transfer across several sectors. To fulfill its mandate to facilitate Business to Business partnerships, the OIFC is also developing a Business networking platform and business directory.”

2.12 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry launched the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), a not-for-profit trust, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), to serve as a ‘one stop shop’ for economic engagement, investment and business related services for potential overseas Indian investors. During 2008, OIFC organized a market at the mini Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) at Singapore in which many one-on-one meetings were held with prospective investors. A similar market place was organized at Chennai during Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2009. On being asked as to what is the outcome of these meetings and presentations organized by OIFC during Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2009 at Chennai and Mini Pravasi Bhartiya Divas at Singapore. Further, the areas in which potential overseas Indian investors are expected to invest, as to whether any investment proposals have been received by the OIFC and as to what has been the achievement of the OIFC in promoting investment in India by Overseas Indians? Whether it has succeeded in getting overseas Indians investment in the infrastructure and social sectors in India ? If so, please give details, the Ministry in its reply stated:

“(i) Market place at PBD 2009 and Mini PBD were an unique platforms created by OIFC for the visiting delegates for face to face meetings with the knowledge partners in sectors such as Real Estate; Finance & Taxation advice, Education, Health, NGOs etc. Among the sectors, most sought after by the delegates were Real Estate and Education, followed by Wealth Management and Tax/FDI. A number of queries are also raised on Philanthropy, Tourism and Business-to-Business networking. Majority of the delegates listed Real Estate as the preferred area of investment. For business to customer services, delegates preferred investment in financial instruments, real estate, contribution to charitable causes etc.

In order to gather information about the experience of visiting delegates with the market place as well as about their expectation of services, a survey was also conducted during the market place. The important recommendations of the survey are as under:

- (a) OIFC market place should become a standard feature of the future PBD and should be expanded in its scope, coverage and depth.
- (b) OIFC market place should focus on various sectors. In the run up of the market place, small but effective Special Interest Group (SIG) can be created to focus exclusively at specific sector and garner support for it from all quarters to present the specific investment related proposal during OIFC. OIFC can use its unique public-private partnership to give creative thrust to the efforts of the Govt. of India and Industry in accelerating the pace of various initiatives take by the Government in social sector.
- (c) A pre-event publicity platform can be created about three months in advance to attract better participation from OIs.
- (d) To ensure that problems faced by OIs are handled expeditiously, OIFC can consider nominating trusted trouble-shooters in respective areas based on their interest.

(ii) OIFC works on an ICT platform where Overseas Indians (OIs) ask investment, taxation etc. related queries for the purpose of making investment in India. These queries are transferred to the specific knowledge partners appointed by the OIFC in various sectors such as Real Estate, Taxation, Wealth Management, Legal etc. The knowledge partners, in addition to replying queries, provides hand holding services and help potential Overseas Indian investors in making investment in India

OIFC has received approximately 1250 such queries through website, emails, faxes. Majority of the queries were received from Canada, Australia, USA and UK. Out of the total queries received, 32% were investment related queries and 68% were investment related information. The break up of the total queries sector-wise is as follows:-

Information related queries –	68%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and advice in sectors like 	20%
1. Education	
2. Investment	
3. Professional	
4. Trading	
5. Advertising Industry	
6. General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules & Regulations (legal aspects) • Taxation Rules and PAN Card • General Research • Consular Issues • Social Security Contributions 	20% 10% 02% 14% 02%
Investment related Queries –	32%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Investments 	19%
i. Property investment/ construction	
ii. Hotels/ Hospitality	
iii. Investment in MFs, stock market, etc.	
iv. Telecom	
v. IT investment	
vi. Health Care	
Business to business Partnership	13%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing Tie Ups in sectors like 	
1. Soaps, detergents	
2. Cotton Textiles	
3. Latex products	
4. Cement and marble manufactures	
5. Rugs and Carpets	
6. Water Purifiers	
7. Power sector products	
8. Flooring Manufacture	

Joint Ventures

1. Health Care
2. IT
3. Media
4. Infrastructure.

All the investment related queries have been answered. However, actual conversion of these queries w.r.t. real investment are not known to OIFC as many of the potential investors do not inform OIFC after getting information.

(iii) & (iv) OIFC has received a large number of investment related queries, including those in respect of infrastructure and social sectors. OIFC has been successful in serving as a clearing house for investment related information to potential investors. It has also been successful as a one stop agency for replying queries and providing handholding services. Actual investment coming to India is a function of many factors and is monitored by the Ministry of Industrial Promotion and Policy.”

2.13 The Committee desired to know whether the Ministry think that with the mandate about the welfare of Overseas Indians, OIFC ought to have this data so as to chalk out new strategies and polices for effectively performing their mandated functions, has any interface to get information about real investment by potential investors in consultation with Ministry of Industrial Promotion and Policy been devised and as to what is the level and periodicity of information exchange with Ministry of Industrial Promotion and Policy in the matter, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“So far OIFC has been working as a clearing house for investment related information to potential investors. So far no information has been exchanged with the Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy. OIFC is being directed to have interaction with the Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy.”

D. Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE)

2.14 On being asked to furnish detailed note on ICOE including its mandate, structure and functioning, as to what are the reasons for increase in allocation this year and the initiatives being undertaken for the programme, the Ministry in its written replies has stated:

- (i) Considering the necessity for establishing an institutional mechanism for promotion of overseas employment, better protection and welfare of overseas Indian workers and for the study of emerging overseas employment opportunities, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up a ‘Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment’ (CPOE) as a Not-For-Profit Society registered under Registration of Societies Act, 1860. This was registered on 30th July, 2008.

The CPOE was subsequently renamed as Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE).

The Mandate of the ICOE is:

- i) To serve as a 'think tank' to devise and execute medium to long term strategies for promoting overseas employment of Indians.
- ii) To regularly monitor, study and analyze the trends in International labour markets as well as strategies of various labour sending and labour receiving countries.
- iii) To develop and sustain a national strategy to be globally competitive as a labour supplier.
- iv) To commission studies on the International labours markets and identify emerging overseas employment opportunities for Indian youth.
- v) To position potential Overseas Indian Workers as "consumers" of employment services provided by the private recruitment industry.
- vi) To project India as a supplier of skilled, trained and qualified workers.
- vii) To adapt training material developed by International Labour Organization and International Organization for Migration for specific states / country and gender.
- (viii) To administer need based welfare schemes for overseas Indian workers.
- (ix) To create resources
 - (a) To gain a better understanding of existing and emerging opportunities for overseas employment
 - (b) Develop and deploy appropriate strategies and decision making tools that would enhance the capabilities of skilled and unskilled manpower to match international standards
 - (c) To create awareness about the growing international employment opportunities
 - (d) To provide mechanism for promotion and facilitation of overseas employment
- x) To act as a channel and provide a database for communicating with stakeholders and develop links for implementing strategies to address labour supply gaps, country / sector specific.
- xi) To monitor and analyse the problems faced by emigrant Indian workers and returnees and suggest corrective measures.

- xii) To establish links with national and international industry , trade, employment agencies, government and non-governmental organizations in order to develop and implement programmes on overseas employment.
- xiii) To undertake, support and promote studies and research in international employment opportunities
- xiv) To design and provide specialized training facilities for emigrants both in India and abroad
- xv) To do all such other lawful acts, deeds or things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objects

Structure of the ICOE

The Indian Council for Overseas Employment (ICOE) has been structured as a two-tier body comprising of a Governing Council and an Executive Directorate.

Governing Council

The composition of the Governing Council is as under:

- (i) Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs or his representative.
- (ii) Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs or his representative.
- (iii) Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs or his representative
- (iv) Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises or his representative.
- (v) Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment or his representative.
- (vi) Three Secretaries of the State Governments by rotation every two years from amongst the major emigrant sending States.
- (vii) Four experts to be nominated by the Government for a term of every two years.
- (viii) The Executive Director of the Council appointed by the Government.

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is the Chairman of the Governing Council.

Executive Directorate

- a. The Government shall appoint an Executive Directorate (ED), headed by an Executive Director. The ED would consist of officers/officials as decided by Government on periodic basis.
- b. The Executive Directorate shall look after the day to day management of the Society. The main role of ED would be to implement the decision of Governing Council.
- c. The strength of the ED shall be as may be fixed by Governing Council from time to time.
- d. Subject to the overall control and general direction of the Governing Council, the ED shall have the following powers and duties and shall perform the following functions.
 - i. To perform all such acts and duties and exercise all such powers as may be delegated or assigned to it by the Governing Council
 - ii. To make recommendations in regard to the programme activities of the Council
 - iii. To examine the budget, revised budget and audited accounts and to recommend the same for the approval of the Governing Council.
 - iv. To examine the quarterly income and expenditure statements
 - v. To provide guidance in regard to the publications which may be brought out by the Council
 - vi. To propose bye-laws, for any of the matters for which they are required to be made, for consideration and adoption by the Governing Council.

Other Committees set up

Besides Executive Directorate, for effective functioning and implementation of policies framed by Governing Council, there shall be following committees:

A Research / Monitoring Committee

- (a) The Research / monitoring committee shall consist of the following members:
 - (i) Chairman of the Council
 - (ii) Executive Director of the Council

- (iii) A person nominated by the Government having relevant experience
- (iv) A person nominated by the Chairman
- (b) All members (other than ex officio members) shall hold office for a term of two years
- (c) The Committee shall be the principal planning & monitoring body responsible for various research and development programmes of the society.
- (d) The Committee shall have the right to advise the Governing Council on any matter which it considers necessary for the fulfillment of the objectives of the society.
- (e) The Committee shall meet at least twice a year to examine the various proposals and review the progress of projects / programmes.

B. Finance Committee

- a) The Finance Committee shall consist of the following Members:
 - (i) Chairman of the Council
 - (ii) Executive Director of the Council
 - (iii) Treasurer
 - (iv) A person nominated by the Government
 - (v) A person nominated by the Chairman
- (b) All members of the Finance Committee other than ex-officio members shall hold office for a term of two years.
- (c) Powers and Functions of the Finance Committee
 - (i) The Finance Committee shall meet at least twice a year to examine the accounts and to scrutinize proposals for expenditure.
 - (ii) The annual accounts and financial estimates of the Council shall be placed before the Finance Committee for consideration and thereafter submitted to the Governing Council for approval.
 - (iii) The Finance Committee shall fix limits of the total recurring expenditure and the total non-recurring expenditure of the year based on the income and resources of the Council. No expenditure shall be incurred by the Council in excess of the limits so fixed without the approval of the President/Chairman.
 - (iv) No expenditure other than that provided in the Budget shall be incurred by the Council without the approval of the Finance Committee.

- (v) To recommend to the Governing Council, creation of various sources to augment revenue.

C. Administrative Committee

- (a) There shall be an Administrative committee to periodically review the administrative / personnel matters of the society and make recommendation to the Governing Council. The committee shall also be responsible for making recommendation in connection with the following matters:

- (i) recruitment / selection of new staff and fixing terms & conditions
- (ii) outsourcing of administrative functions
- (iii) removal of staff / other vendors with appropriate reasoning.
- (iv) ensuring maintenance of discipline by framing various rules & regulations in this regard.

- (b) The Administrative committee shall consist of the following members:

- (i) Chairman of the Council
- (ii) Executive Director of the Council
- (iii) A person nominated by the Government having relevant experience
- (iv) A person nominated by the Chairman

- (c) All members other than ex-officio member shall hold office for a term of two years.

- (d) The Administrative Committee shall meet at least twice a year to examine and review various matters.

- (ii) While deciding this year's allocation for ICOE, the facts of setting up of the office, payment of salary to the staff engaged/appointed and the expenditure on various schemes and projects to be undertaken have been kept in view. The budget allocation is based on the work plan of the ICOE for the FY 2009-10.

- (iii) The following activities have been undertaken / planned for this year:

- (a) Developing a Labour Market Assessment in select European countries by IOM
- (b) Assessment of extent of impact of global recession on Indian migrant workers in sic GCC countries
- (c) Design of welfare fund by KPMG

- (d) Study on strategic and special interventions in realization of the objectives of HOPAB, Haryana commissioned by HOPAB/ICOE
- (e) Study on promotion of overseas employment avenues in different sectors in specific countries for Andhra Pradesh by OMCAP/ICOE
- (f) India-EU mobility cooperation.
- (g) Design of a pension programme for returning workers.”

2.15 On being further asked to elaborate as to what inputs have been provided by ICOE about the trend in international labour market in the context of present economic scenario and the strategies have been advised by ICOE so as to tackle the declining labour market trends globally, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“A study on labour market assessment in France, Denmark, Sweden, Romania, Poland and Czech Republic has been commissioned to be undertaken through International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The project will commence shortly. Strategies will be decided on the basis of the outcomes of the project. A study on the impact of the global financial crisis on the overseas Indian workers in the Gulf has shown that except in the emirate of Dubai in the UAE, there has not been any more adverse impact on existing jobs or on future job prospects.”

2.16 Further, on being asked to state as to how ICOE is going to fulfill this mandate and as to whether any action plan has been prepared for this purpose, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The ICOE is currently following a three pronged approach to develop a medium to long term strategic policy to position India as a supplier of skilled, trained and qualified workers:

First: By developing Partnerships with independent think-tanks overseas such as the European University Institute of the E-U, the Washington based Migration Policy Institute and the Athens based Hellenic Migration Policy Institute. These Partnerships will foster understanding of India’s potential and reinforce bilateral arrangements for mobility of Indian Workers and Professionals.

Second: The ICOE is commissioning Labour market Assessments of select countries in the E-U that would due to demographic pressures of ageing population face severe skill shortages and labour supply gaps in the future. This will enable us to give focused attention on a country specific and sector specific basis to facilitate overseas employment.

Finally the ICOE will through appropriate partnership develop comprehensive country-specific and skill specific training manuals and curricula to ensure that there is appropriate matching of skill sets between the

supply of professionals from India with the skills standards that the market demands in the destination countries.

In addition the ICOE will facilitate direct contacts between foreign employers and potential employees in India.

A conference of prominent employers of overseas Indians in important sectors in six GCC countries and Malaysia is being planned in partnership with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. This is expected to be held in 2010.”

E. Grant-in-aid to other institutions

2.17 On being asked to furnish details of allocation to other Institutions under “Grant in Aid” and how does the Ministry contemplate to promote empirical research in Diaspora and Migration studies, the Ministry in its reply stated:

“(i) The details are as under:

- a. Grant to Centre for Development studies, Thiruvanthapuram for the research unit on International Migration – Rs 31.70 lakhs
- b. Grant to JNU for the research programme on International Migration by ZHCES, School of Social Sciences – Rs.47.14 lakh
- c. Grant to School of International Relations, Mahatma Gandhi University – Rs. 60 Lakh
- d. Grant to Pardada – Pardadi Educational Society – Rs. 15 lakh

(ii) A key problem in addressing the problems and concerns of migrant workers and the overseas Indian community is the absence of a data base, empirical research and analysis that can support appropriate policy decisions. The need has therefore been felt to strengthen research support for issues relating to migration of Indians overseas as well as the needs and expectations of the diaspora.

The Ministry has signed MoUs with CDS Thiruvanthapuram and JNU to support research work relevant to the mandate of the Ministry. A good example is the pre-departure orientation manuals developed by the CDS for the Ministry to train workers going to the GCC countries”

2.18 To a further query as to how would CDS and JNU be better qualified than the Government of India to carry out an investigation into the Diaspora across the world, the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during evidence has replied:

“.....Coming to the research done by the two institutions, namely, the Centre for Development Studies and the Jawahar Lal University, in fact, there are specific mandates which are assigned to these organisations. With the CDS,

for example, the task assigned to them is recommending a coherent international migration policy framework/strategy for India over medium to long term, preparing country briefs on major labour importing countries. The CDS has produced a number of reports in these areas. Similarly, the JNU has been focussing on the mobility and labour transfer matters and other issues. At the same time, we have been working with various institutions abroad as well. We have started working with three academic institutions. One is the Migration Policy Institute in Washington. The other institute is in Athens.....”

2.19 The Committee wanted to know the details of the research work being done by the agencies and also state categorically how the research work done by the agencies will be helpful in addressing the problems and concerns of migrant workers and the Overseas Indian Community, the Ministry in its written replies has stated:

“Details of the Research Work undertaken by CDS and JNU are indicated as under:

CDS, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As per the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and Centre for Development Studies (CDS) on 12th June, 2006, a Research Unit on International Migration was set up with financial assistance by MOIA, valid for a period of five years (2006-07 to 2010-11). The scope of the Research Work included the following:

- (i) Recommending a coherent International Migration policy framework country strategy for India over medium to long term.
- (ii) Preparing country briefs on major labour importing countries including a study of their labour laws, working conditions, problems of emigrant workers and suggesting issues that need to be addressed through bilateral Agreements.
- (iii) Country-wise analysis of the emerging opportunities for new jobs in various sectors and suggest skill upgradation strategies to help India position itself as an exporter of highly skilled manpower and help emigrant workers move up the wage chain.

- (iv) State-wise analysis of the major sourcing States and suggest strategies to help the States make emigration an orderly process and open opportunities for its potential overseas workers.
- (v) Pilot Research on Recruitment Agencies in India.

2. CDS has furnished the following Research Reports, so far.

- (i) Draft Outline Paper on Migration Policy
- (ii) Pre-departure Training Manuals – 06 Countries
- (iii) Survey of Emigrants in Kerala - Report.
- (iv) AP Migration Study.
- (v) International Migration Policies in India
- (vi) Human rights issues of migrant workers in GCC Countries.
- (vii) Migration – Remittances and Employment.
- (viii) Managing Migration in Philippines – Lessons for India.
- (ix) Revamping the Overseas Recruitment System in Kerala: A Case Study.
- (x) Return Migrants in Kerala – Rehabilitation Problem and Development Potential.
- (xi) Beyond the existing structures: Revamping Overseas Recruitment System in India (First Report)

RESEARCH PROGRAMME WITH JNU

As per the MOU signed with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies (ZHCES) on 22.05.2008, a Research Programme on International Migration has been initiated. The Project aims to conduct focused Research Programme on various aspects of International Migration from India and to prepare policy/strategy briefs for the Ministry and conduct seminars on different diaspora subjects, over a period of five years.

2. An Advisory Committee has been constituted to guide and monitor the Research programmes undertaken by the Unit. The Ministry organized an International Conference on 'India-EU Partnerships in Mobility: Data, Agreements and Policy in International Migration', at New Delhi on February 21-23, 2009 with a view to address critical issues in India-EU Partnership in human mobility comprising highly skilled, semi skilled and low skilled category of workers, student migrants and families. The focus areas were :

- (i) Labour Transfer Matters - relating to Demographic transition and changing Migration trends, including ageing and labour shortages in EU Countries, employment opportunities which can be filled up by Indian labour and the demographic dividend for the country, etc.
- (ii) Financial Transfer Matters - relating to cost of migrating to and living in EU countries, wages to the migrant labour, savings and remittances, pension and social security schemes, etc.
- (iii) Knowledge Transfer Matters - relating to enrolment of students in the EU, education fares, content of the curriculum, etc.
- (iv) Overarching issues - relating to Consular and Visa issues, integration of migrant labour, return and re-integration, human trafficking in asylum, climate change and migration, future of International migration, etc.

4. A Drafting Group for formulating the 'National Migration Policy' has also been constituted to finalize the Policy at the earliest.

5. As may be seen from the above, the Research work done by the two Agencies would be helpful in addressing various issues relating to migrant workers, especially in formulating Policy initiatives on welfare of migrant workers in the GCC countries and Labour Mobility partnerships with the Member States of the EU.”

2.20 The Committee desired to know as to whether the Ministry have any meaningful directory or data base of Indian people living in different countries and as to why it should not be done by the Indian Government, the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during evidence has stated:

“.....On the data base of Indians, I must confess that this is something which is being built up. As I mentioned earlier, we have 5 lakh overseas citizenship of India where a data base is available. We have the data base on the Indian associations which again is partial. It is not complete. We are trying to build up the list of Indians who are successful in various walks of life including the political, social, academic and other areas. But we have not reached really anywhere. We have a long way to go. Our assessment is that as far as the academic and skills are concerned, it would be our global knowledge network which should be able to attract all such persons. We expect this to be functional in two months. This is a major development. Once it is set up, we will take up the marketing of that, making it known to people and we expect substantial interest on the part of the overseas Indians... The basis for the data that we now have is the information collected by the High Level Committee on Diaspora headed by Dr. Singhvi. The Committee had visited most parts of the world and collected a lot of information. That is serving as a

basis for information as of now. The way we are looking at it is that we do need the data but we should be able to utilise the data also and benefit from the data as well. It is an evolving thing because this is something we are conscious of that. I am happy that the hon. Member has stressed this point. We are working on that but there is no specific thing as of now. I must confess that.”

F. Pre-departure Orientation and Skill Up-gradation for Emigrant Workers

2.21 The Ministry in their written replies informed that allocation made for Pre-departure Orientation and Skill Up-gradation for Emigrant Workers has been drastically reduced from Rs. 5 Crores to Rs. 1 Crore. The Ministry was asked to give the reasons for steep decrease in allocation keeping in view the importance of this particular programme/scheme, the Ministry in its written replies stated:

“The Ministry has been periodically reviewing the implementation of the Skill up gradation and Pre-departure orientation programme. During the review, it was observed that the implementation of the Scheme by the State Governments and other Agencies during the last three years has been slow. The major States of origin have not been able to utilize the funds released so far and hence no further funding can be given till full utilization is reported.

The Core Group set up by the Ministry to oversee the programme, subsequently, recommended that the Scheme should be self sustaining and not dependent upon the financial assistance released by the Ministry. The programme is now being implemented in partnership with the apex industry bodies. Efforts are underway to standardize the curricula, provide for independent testing and third party certification for the training. Hence, it was decided to reduce the allocation for the Programme to Rs.1 crore during the current Financial Year.”

G. Know India Programme (KIP)

2.22 The Committee are informed that the allocation for the Know India Programme (KIP) has been raised from Rs 87 lakhs in 2008-09 to Rs 1.25 crores in 2009-10. The annual report 2008-09 of MOIA indicates low level of participation viz only 31, 34 and 22 participants joined the programme during the 9th, 10th and 11th KIP respectively. On being enquired about the reasons for low level of participation in this programme and

the initiatives taken by the Ministry to promote and popularize Know India Programme, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

(i) For 11th KIP, the total approved participation was 29, 7 of whom dropped out subsequently due to personal reasons.

41 participants have been approved for the 12th KIP beginning 24th September. Four of them have since dropped out.

The Ministry is now organizing 3 KIPs each financial year and upto 40 participants could take part in each of these programmes.

(ii) The programme earlier restricted to PIOs from a select list of 32 countries, has now been opened to PIOs from all countries. It has also been decided that from 12th KIP onwards MOIA will reimburse 90% of the total cost of air ticket (at lowest economy excursion fare) to the participants from their country of residence to India and back instead of 50% of airfare reimbursed earlier.

2.23 Further on being asked as to whether there is any proposal in the Ministry to increase the number of Know India Programmes (KIPs) in each Financial Year, if not, whether organizing 3 K/IPs in each Financial Year is sufficient keeping in view the opening of the programme to PIOs from all countries and as to what further steps have been taken to ensure high participation in these KIPs, the Ministry in its reply as stated:

“There is no proposal in the Ministry to increase the number of Know India Programmes (KIPs) in a financial year.

With the opening of the KIP to PIOs from all the countries and our publicity effort the number of KIPs have been increased to 3 in a year to accommodate more participants. As KIP is designed keeping in view the weather conditions and examination period it may not be feasible to organize more than 3 KIPs in a financial year.

We have advised the missions/posts to give wide publicity of the program and have been inviting applications for KIP through all our missions/ posts abroad. We have also decided to involve the Indian Associations abroad to give wide publicity to the program. From 12th KIP onwards MOIA is reimbursing 90% of the total cost of air ticket (at lowest economy excursion fare) to the participants from the country of residence to India instead of 50% of airfare reimbursed uptill now. For the 13th KIP we have received 70 applications for participation which is the maximum number for any KIP till date.”

H. Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC)

2.24 An allocation of Rs. 20 lakhs was made towards establishing Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) and the allocation made for this Centre in BE 2009-10 has been increased to Rs. 50 lakh. The Centre was established only on January, 2008 with 12X7 helpline functioning in 7 languages. The Committee desired to know about the utilization of increased allocation, the number of complaints or grievances registered, responded and redressed by OWRC since January, 2008 and what awareness campaign are being carried out by the Ministry for educating the emigrants about emigration procedures, the pitfalls of illegal emigration and precautions to be taken during recruitment and overseas employment, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“(i) The budgetary allocation for the OWRC has been increased keeping in view the additional services to be provided by the OWRC, escalation in the cost of infrastructural facilities and for making the OWRC helpline a state of the art Resource Centre to provide walk-in-counseling as well act as a data source for disseminating information to the emigrant / would be emigrant workers. The additional facilities include:

- OWRC has since been made operational on 24/7 basis w.e.f. 1st May, 2009.
- An international toll free number (800 091 202 53) has been activated for information seekers from three countries, viz: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE. The ISD toll free number is currently operating for Dubai and will be extended to Saudi Arabia & Kuwait, after the requisite service lines are available.

(ii) Since its inception in January, 2008 till June, 2009, 15716 calls were received by OWRC Helpline which includes 14,684 enquiries, 309 complaints with complete details and 723 complaints with incomplete details. Out of the 309 complaints with complete details, 275 complaints have been redressed.”

(iii) The upward trend in the number of calls received by the Helpline indicates the growing popularity and faith of the people in approaching the Helpline for seeking relevant information for their benefit as well as for lodging their grievances.

(iv) The Awareness Campaign of the Ministry focuses on creating awareness on the risks of illegal migration and the procedures to be followed for legal migration.

2.25 The Committee have been informed that the Ministry intends to expand the scope and reach of the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) to make it operational with global reach and accessibility and establish regional OWRCs in select state Capitals. On being asked to give details of establishment of these regional Centres, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“Ministry has already established one Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) at Cochin which started its operations w.e.f. 1st September, 2008. The MRC is working as a telephone Helpline as well as a walk-in-Counselling Centre for dissemination of information to the potential emigrant workers.

Another Migrant Resource Centre is now being established in Hyderabad. Ministry intends to set up these MRCs as regional hubs which will then be connected to the central OWRC for strengthening the information dissemination and grievance redressal.”

2.26 The Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during evidence added as under:

“...We have set up a Migrant Resources Centre at Kochi which is to provide guidance for potential migrants to various countries. A similar one is proposed to be set up at Hyderabad and also in Chandigarh. They are going to come up very soon. This is in addition to what was set up earlier called the Overseas Workers Resource Centre which primarily operates through a 24/7 multilingual toll free telephone line. This is an additional thing.....”

2.27 On being asked as to what are the timelines of establishment of Migrant Resource Centre (MRC), Hyderabad, the status of the proposal and number of MRCs proposed to be set up in country as regional hub, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The MRC at Hyderabad is being set up under the India-EU Project on safe and legal migration being implemented by IOM in partnership with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The work for setting up of the MRC at Hyderabad is underway. It is expected to be set up by the end of 2009 - early 2010.

The staff required for the MRC will be provided by the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

The number of MRCs to be set up will be decided after due diligence considering the major sourcing States.”

2.28 Further on being asked as to what about remaining 34 complaints? Why these complaints could not be redressed, as to what action has been taken by the Ministry on 723 complaints received with incomplete details and as to whether the Ministry asked the complainants to furnish complete details or took other proactive actions with a view to redress such a substantial number of complaints, the Ministry in its reply stated:

“The OWRC is essentially a 24X7 helpline which disseminates authentic information to the Indian emigrants abroad and to potential emigrants. Various types of complaints and queries are received through the OWRC. Action is initiated in respect of all the actionable references. However, not all the references received through the OWRC are actionable. In many cases it is seen that the same complaint from the same complainant is forwarded time and again, the second and later references being reminders. Out of 34 pending cases, 14 have been resolved and the remaining 20 are under process.”

I. Legal Assistance to Indian Women facing problems in NRI Marriages

2.29 The Committee have been informed that the allocation made for legal and financial assistance to Indian women facing problems in NRI marriages has been increased from Rs. 2 lakhs in 2008-2009 to Rs. 15 lakhs in 2009-2010. On being asked to give reasons for this increase in allocation for assistance to Indian women under the scheme, in how many such cases the Ministry has rendered assistance during 2008-2009 and what are the details of funds provided to each Indian Missions during the last two years and their utilization thereof, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“(i) The funds under the scheme are allocated to the Indian Missions/Posts abroad based on the projections raised by them. These projections are made on the basis of cases available/anticipated in a financial year.

(ii) The details are as under:

1. High Commission of India, Wellington	4 cases
2. Consulate General of India, San Francisco	1 case
3. Consulate General of India, New York	1 case
Total	6 cases
Total amount	Rs. 2,67,820/-

(iii) The details are as under:

S.No.	Indian mission	Allocation of fund sanctioned under the budget during 2007-2008 (Rs. in lakhs)	Utilization of fund	Allocation of fund sanctioned under the budget during 2008-2009 (Rs. in lakhs)	utilization of fund
1	U.S.A	15	Rs. 1,24,000/-	19.30	Rs. 92,220/-
2	U.K.	08	....	08	...
3	CANADA	08	....	05	....
4	AUSTRALIA	08	....	10.08	....
5	NEW ZEALAND	03	....	08	Rs. 1,75.600/-
6	DUBAI (UAE)	02	....	---	....
7	KUWAIT	02	....	---	....
8	QATAR	02	...	04	....
9	BAHRAIN	02	...	02	....
TOTAL		RS. 50.00 LAKHS	Rs.1.24,000/-	Rs. 56.38 LAKHS	Rs. 2.67,820/-

(iv) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has prepared pamphlets/guidance Booklet on NRI Marriages in different languages to educate prospective brides and their families to take all possible precautions before entering into marriage alliance with overseas Indians. The information campaign is still ongoing. Its impact will be known only in due course.”

2.30 Further on being enquired about the reasons for less utilization as compared to allocation of funds sanctioned under the budget during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 by the aforesaid 9 Indian Missions and as to what is the allocation/utilization status during the current Financial Year (2009-2010), the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The cases received by the Indian Missions/Posts may come under different categories. In majority of the cases Indian women desire reconciliation rather than divorce which the legal system in a country may not support. Taking in to consideration the legal system prevailing in the country, cost of legal expenses, worthiness of the cases etc. the Missions decide the cases for providing legal assistance on a case to case basis which leads to less utilization .

“The allocation and utilization status during the current financial year up to October, 2009 by the Indian Missions /Posts is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Mission/Post	Funds allotted Rupees in Lakhs	Utilization
1	CGI, Melbourne	4.76	NIL
2	CGI , Sydney	2.50	NIL
3	HCI, Wellington, New Zealand	4.00	NIL
4	Embassy of India, Safat, Kuwait	1.42	NIL
5	Embassy of India, Qatar , Doha	2.00	NIL
6	Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi, UAE	6.75	NIL
7	Embassy of India, Bahrain	1.00	NIL
8	HCI, London, U.K.	3..00	NIL
9	Embassy of India, Washington, USA	2.36	NIL
10	CGI, Chicago	2.10	NIL
11	CGI, Houston	2.10	NIL
12	CGI, New York	2.36	NIL
13	CGI, San Francisco	1.25	NIL
	Total	35.60	NIL

J. Construction of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK)

2.31 Allocation for construction of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) and for construction/purchase of new Office Premises for PoE shows a substantial increase from BE 2008-2009 of Rs.10 crores (subsequent RE 2008-2009 of Rs.1 crore) to Rs.21 crore for 2009-2010. Construction of PBK has been long overdue. When asked to furnish the details regarding actual status about the construction of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK), the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The land use of the plots allotted for the construction of the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in Chankyapuri, New Delhi has since been changed from “Residential (foreign Mission) to “Public & Semi Public Facilities (Socio-cultural) by a notification issued on 19th February, 2009 issued by the Ministry of Urban Development.

The National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd., (NBCC), a turn-key Consultant and Project Manager, has already prepared a Detailed-Project

Report (DPR) of the PBK. As per the DPR, the Project cost has been estimated at Rs.112 crores, with applicable cost escalation formula prescribed by the CPWD. The Project has been appraised by the Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure (CNE) in its meeting held on 6th August, 2009 and has been recommended for approval of the competent authority. The minutes of the CNE meeting has since been finalized. The CNE has recommended the proposal for approval of the competent authority at an estimated cost of Rs. 107.22 crore subject to certain conditions. Further appropriate action is being taken.

The municipal drawings of the building have already been submitted to the NDMC, who in turn would seek the approval of Delhi Urban Arts Commission and Delhi Fire Service. Concerted efforts are being made to get the drawings cleared by the authorities concerned. Simultaneously, the NBCC is already in the process of getting the soil investigation etc. so that the detailed working drawings are ready and tenders for construction are invited by the NBCC. An amount of Rs.4.74 lakh has also been released as advance payment to the NBCC for soil testing. The soil testing is expected to be started from 2nd week of September, 2009 and likely to be completed by the last week of October, 2009.

It is expected that the construction of the building will start in the third quarter of the current financial year and the Project is likely to be completed by the end of year 2011.“

2.32 The Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during evidence has further added:

“.....One of the important things I must mention where there has been a visible lack of performance on our side is the implementation of the project of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra. This is a very ambitious project. The facilities are to come up in a plot of land in Chanakyapuri in Delhi. The land has been allotted. The designs have been prepared and submitted for approval by the various agencies. The budget provision is there. There is a provision of Rs.21 crore for this year for the capital works. The delays have been because of the procedural matters with various agencies, one of which is permission for conversion of land use. The land was originally earmarked for diplomatic missions. So, the change of land use was a long process. It was ultimately got done. Now, we are waiting for the approvals of the plan from the NDMC. Now it is actually pending with the Urban Arts Commission. Plus we also need approvals from the Finance Ministry, from the Committee for Non-Plan Expenditure. The Committee has appraised the scheme but they are still waiting for some clarifications from the CPWD. This is one very ambitious programme where little headway has been made. But we hope to start the physical work on this because both the financial approval and the plans approval are at various advanced stages. So, we expect action during the current year itself.....”

K. Working of Protector of Emigrants Offices (PoEs)

2.33 The Committee desired to know as to whether all the POE Offices have their own premises and how many POE offices are still functioning in rented buildings, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“There are 8 POE Offices located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Triruvananthapuram, Cochin, Hyderabad and Chandigarh. None of these offices are functioning from own premises. The POE Offices of Delhi, Kolkata and Chandigarh are functioning from government buildings whereas the remaining offices are functioning from rented premises.”

2.34 Further to a query about the details of rent paid for PoE Offices for the last three years, and as to whether there is any proposal to acquire/purchase land/building to house the PoE Offices, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The details of rent paid for POE offices for the last three years, year-wise, is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Rent Paid (Rs.)
1.	2006-07	3493522
2.	2007-08	2715945
3.	2008-09	6838801
	Total	13048268

There is no proposal to acquire / purchase land / building to house the POE offices. Funds provided for constructions / purchase of building for PGE/ POE are inadequate.”

L. Investments by Overseas Indians

2.35 According to the Ministry, one of the mandates of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is promotion of investments by Overseas Indians in India particularly in areas such as exclusive Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The Committee enquired about the steps taken by the Ministry vis-à-vis investments in SEZ during the last fiscal year, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“To achieve the objective of bringing investment to India, OIFC planned to organize ‘Investors Interactive Meetings’ in eight regions showing a range of exclusive products and projects from the India Corporate to Overseas Indian investment in real estate wealth management, health care etc. The regions identified were Middle East, South Africa, Australia, UK, Netherlands, Canada, USA and Malaysia. First such meet was held in November 2008 in Oman. But due to the Global financial crisis and sharp decline in investor interest across the world, further investor meets have been deferred for the present.”

2.36 Regarding organizing further investor meets in the identified regions in near future, the Ministry in its post-evidence reply has stated:

“The Ministry intends to organize further investors’ meeting in the identified regions in next financial year. The revised dates will be finalized in consultation with the Embassies / High Commissions concerned.”

M. Labour Mobility Partnership (LMP)

2.37 On being asked to furnish information regarding Labour Mobility Partnership (LMP) Scheme and as to how the management of migration of workers be strengthened/improved by this Scheme, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

‘(i) A tripartite Pilot Project titled ‘Administration of Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle from India and the Philippines to the United Arab Emirates’ has been approved for implementation among the three Countries. The objective of the Pilot Project is to develop best practices in the administration of the Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle leading to a framework for cooperation among Asian countries of origin and destination. The Pilot Project aims to achieve the following during the four phases of employment cycle:

- (a) Improving the quality of recruitment and pre-deployment processes.
- (b) providing the workers with appropriate working and living conditions and treatment during their employment abroad.
- (c) preparing the workers for their return at the end of their contract; and
- (d) facilitating the return and re-integration of the workers into their home communities.

Another Project being implemented by the Ministry is the Information Campaign in six select States for creation of awareness among the general Public about the risks of irregular migration. This project implemented through IOM will address some of the immediate and urgent concerns arising out of irregular migration, especially in the rural side. This will be achieved through

organizing seminars involving the key stakeholders from the different regions for formulating a sustainable strategy for the prevention of irregular migration. Through the implementation of this project, the Heads of the Gram Panchayats of the targeted villages will be made aware of the risks and realities of irregular migration in order to communicate those risks to potential irregular migrants and to on a longer term basis, contribute to the prevention of irregular migration. State specific documentary films and Information Brochures will be produced and street plays will be organized to raise awareness among potential migrants at the grass-root level on the risks and realities of irregular migration.

The Budgetary allocation of Rs. 1.5 Crore will cater to the administrative expenses of the India – UAE- Philippines tri-partite Pilot Project and also the Information dissemination Campaign implemented through the IOM.

(ii) The Pilot Project envisages placing a minimum of 1,500 workers each from India and the Philippines in three key sectors, namely, Construction, Healthcare and Hospitality who will be working in the UAE. Through joint implementation of the Project between India, the Philippines and UAE, the best Practices in the entire Mobility Cycle will be evolved. The management of migration of workers can be strengthened by applying these best practices across all workers moving from India to the Gulf region.”

2.38 The Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during the course of evidence has further added:

“....One major development is that we have been able to sign a Labour Mobility Partnership with Denmark, which we consider as a major inroad into Europe and we are following it up with efforts for more of such labour mobility partnerships including one with the European Union. But unfortunately, because of the global recession which has substantially hit Europe the direct outcome of these efforts is probably not very visible as of now.....”

2.39 Asked further about the Information Campaign is being implemented in only six selected States, whether there is any proposal in the Ministry to extend this project for other States of the Country and can't the medium of television and FM Radio be roped in for the purpose to disseminate the information in a more effective and holistic manner rather than restricting it to the campaign being undertaken by the Ministry nowadays, the Ministry in its reply stated:

“The information campaign was restricted to six states only which were the major labour sending states. Information campaign in those states from where Labour sending is very less, will not have much meaningful utility.

The focus of our campaigns has been on the Vernacular and regional channels that have made coverage in rural areas. However, National News channels have been roped in for disseminating the information on a country-wide basis. FM Radios are mostly popular in metro cities / urban areas. As most of the migrant labour force is from the small towns / rural villages, roping in FM Radio may not be of much use.”

2.40 “Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)” has been created by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in all the 17 Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) countries w.e.f 1-1-2009. The Outcome Budget also mentions that the Ministry is pursuing Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements (LMPA) with several countries. An out lay of 150 lakhs (1.5 Crores) has been provided to this programme in BE 2009-2010.

The Committee desired to know the details of this programme viz. Negotiations made with different countries and which Region of the world is the area of focus under Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements (LMPA), the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“(i) The Ministry is pursuing Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements (LMPA) with several countries with the objective of facilitating mobility of Indian workers for employment in these countries and curbing irregular migration to these countries from India.

Labour Mobility Partnership with Denmark has been negotiated and initialed recently. Exploratory discussion on the possibility of an LMP has been held with France recently. Draft LMPs have been sent through diplomatic channels to Belgium, Sweden, Poland and Romania and discussion with them is likely to commence in the near future. An informal dialogue with the European Commission for exploring the potential for an India-EU LMP has been proposed.

Countries in Europe are the focus under LMPA.”

2.41 In their post evidence replies, the Ministry has furnished the data about the PIOs and NRIs in the following countries:

Denmark	6196 (April, 2009)
France	65,000 (April, 2009)
Belgium	17,000 (April, 2009)
Sweden	22,000 (April, 2009)
Poland	1642 (May, 2006)
Romania	800 (May, 2006)

As part of our strategy to diversify the destination base of overseas Indian professionals and workers, mobility partnerships with different countries are being pursued. A mobility partnership is a bilateral instrument that provides a framework for cooperation to facilitate legal migration, ensure better management of migratory flows and take measures for prevention of illegal migration.

The European Commission has been invited to send a delegation to India for an informal dialogue on the basis of the draft proposed by us. The individual member states of EU have to be involved in the process.

Draft LMPs have been sent to Belgium, Sweden, Poland, France and Romania through diplomatic channels.

No responses have been received from Romania and Belgium. Sweden and France have evinced interest.

In the case of Sweden, the Minister of Migration and Asylum Policy of Sweden had a meeting with the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs in November, 2008 and discussed about mobility partnership between the two countries and expressed the desire for continued dialogue on this important issue. To set the process in motion a draft LMP was forwarded to them. Further, response in this regard is awaited.

As regards France, an official delegation is expected for discussions in early 2010.

In the case of Poland, the Indian Mission is in touch with that Govt. for further progress in the matter.”

2.42 The Committee have been informed that the third annual Conference of the Heads of the Indian Missions in the major labour receiving countries was held in New Delhi during 27-28 November, 2008. Representatives of the State Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab and representatives of Ministry of External Affairs and Home Affairs were also present. The objective of conference was to provide an opportunity to the Indian Missions in various labour receiving countries to share their experience in dealing with labour issues amongst themselves and with the Central Government. The recommendations of the conference serve as useful inputs for formulating the policy framework on Migration and to take appropriate steps in the destination countries. On being asked as to what were the major issues that have been emerged in common as a result of this Conference i.e. recommendations of the Conference considered as useful inputs for corrective action and to what extent this

Conference was helped the Government in finding ways to deal with labour issues, the Ministry in their reply has stated that:

“(i) The Heads of Missions Conference deliberated on a number of important issues aimed at protecting the welfare of the migrant workers. These included:

- (a) Setting up of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in the Missions in all the ECR countries to provide for welfare of the overseas Indian workers in distress.
- (b) Finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding with the major labour receiving Countries like Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Bahrain, Libya, etc. for protection of safety and welfare of Migrant workers.
- (c) Operationalising the Office of Director, Community Affairs (Development) at Abu Dhabi, UAE to look after the labour matters in the GCC Countries.
- (d) Revamping the existing system of Recruitment and enforcing a model contract for protecting the interests of Indian workers in the Gulf region.
- (e) Review of the Grievance Redressal System in the Missions for migrant workers.
- (f) Review of Skill Up gradation and Pre-departure Orientation Programme for potential migrant workers.

(ii) The major recommendations / decisions of the 3rd Heads of Missions Conference are as under:

I. Launching of Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

The Scheme for the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to be set up in the 17 ECR Countries to extend a host of welfare services for the overseas Indian workers was adopted.

The Fund will be operated by the HOM, as per the Scheme document and the sanction orders will be issued by the MOIA with the concurrence of MEA in this regard.

II. Activating the Joint Working Groups (JWGs).

The Ministry has signed bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on labour with a number of labour receiving countries, like Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait and Oman. Similar MoUs have been finalized with Bahrain and Malaysia. The Missions concerned may coordinate the dates for signing these MoUs with the respective Governments.

Joint Working Groups (JWG) which have been set up under the MoUs should be activated and regular meetings of the JWG should be organized to sort out bilateral issues on labour such as model contract, minimum wages, documentation requirements, labour dispute redressal, retention of passports, substitution of contracts, dealing with recalcitrant employers, practical solutions to problems of exploitation and abuse of workers, regulation of intermediaries, sharing of experience in manpower deployment, exchange of information on legislative and administrative measures, exchange of labour market information, providing welfare support services through Indian Workers Resource Centres etc. A calendar of JWG Meetings may be prepared by the HoM's.

III. Operationalising the Office of Director, Community Affairs (Development) in the GCC Countries.

The Charter of the duties of Director, Community Affairs (Development), posted in the Overseas Indian Centre (OIC) in the UAE and reporting to the Ambassador will be finalized and the Office would be operationalised in the first week of January, 2009 to render a wide variety of services including counseling to the migrant workers in legal, medical and financial matters. The Centre would act as a Resource Centre for the GCC Countries. A similar Centre would be set up in Kuala Lumpur, shortly.

IV. Finalization of the Model Contract for universal application by the Missions.

The model Work Contract may be made applicable to all the ECR countries subject to the local laws. HoM's can customize the model Work Contract to accommodate country specific laws which can be enforced through administrative instructions. Country specific variations in the Work Contract can be discussed and finalized in the meetings of the Joint Working Group set up under the provision of MoUs.

V. Universal Attestation of the Work Contract through outsourcing.

The attestation of the Work Contract by the Missions should be universalized. This would ensure creation of a Master Data Register and reinforce the legal migration process. The Kuwaiti model of attestation of work contract through outsourcing can be adopted and the cost of outsourcing can be met from the attestation charges to be levied from the workers. This facility should work on an electronic platform so that data collection would be instantaneous and verifiable.

V. Establishing Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) which includes a Help Desk and a 24 X 7 Help Line in the GCC Countries and Malaysia.

Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) which includes a Help Desk and a 24 X 7 Helpline may be made functional in the Missions in the GCC Countries and Malaysia. This would facilitate redressal of the grievances of the migrant workers, provide information dissemination to intending migrants and act as a Resource Centre for State Governments to interact with, in times of distress. A model RFP for soliciting proposals for outsourcing the Helpline for the IWRC was circulated. HoM's will take steps to operationalise the IWRC at the earliest.

VII. Operating a Shelter - cum- Counseling Centre in the GCC Countries through Indian Associations / NGOs / Outsourcing.

The Missions may set up Shelter –cum – Counseling Centre to provide temporary shelter, food and medical facilities etc. to the runaway workers and housemaids and provide counseling services and legal assistance to the distressed workers. The HoM's can consider management of the Shelter Homes in partnership with Indian Associations / NGOs or through outsourcing to reputed agencies on the model of the Shelter Home operated by EOI, Kuwait. HoM's will take steps to operationalise the Shelter-cum-Counseling Centres.

VIII. Designing and Implementing an on-site Insurance Programme.

Since the existing PBBY Scheme has not proved beneficial to a large segment of the migrant workers, awareness about the scheme has to be spread and the procedures simplified. Feasibility of alternative Insurance Schemes may be explored which would be in conformity with the local laws. The Insurance Scheme should, in particular, cover cashless hospitalization. The premium of the Insurance cover can be levied from the employers.

IX. Implementation of the Indo-UAE Pilot Project on Temporary Labour Mobility Partnerships and initiating similar Pilot Projects in other GCC Countries

The Indo-UAE Pilot Project on Temporary Labour Mobility Partnerships in three sectors, viz., Construction, Health Care and Hospitality was discussed. It was felt that similar Pilot Projects can be initiated in other countries of the region to adopt best practices in Labour Migration Management. HoM's may explore the possibilities in consultation with the host Government.

X. Organizing focused India Investor Meets in all the GCC Countries

One Investor Interactive Meet was successfully organized at Muscat in partnership with OIFC on 12th November, 2008. Similar Investor Meets may

be organized in the other GCC countries to attract maximum investment from this region. OIFC to lay emphasis on developing customized products for overseas Indian workers to transform them from being mere savers to becoming investors. OIFC will liaise with HoM's in this regard.

(iii) The deliberations and recommendations of the Conference helped in understanding issues relating to migrant workers in the major labour receiving Countries. This has resulted in formulating necessary policy framework for handling labour migration matters in these Countries.

2.43 According to the Outcome Budget the Skill upgradation and Pre-departure orientation scheme aims at capacity building in the country in the area of development of standards, curricula, learning material assessment standards, testing the certification on par with Global Standards. On being asked to furnish the details of steps taken by the Ministry in this regard during the last three years, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The Scheme of Skill Up-gradation and Pre-departure Orientation undertaken by the Ministry is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), major labour sending State Governments, apex Industrial Associations like ASSOCHAM, CII, etc. The Ministry has given financial assistance for implementing the Scheme through these agencies. This has helped in capacity building of the State Governments to a large extent. Pre-departure Orientation Manuals have been prepared by the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram under a funded research programme. These Manuals have been given wide publicity to enable Pre-departure Orientation training to be given by the State Governments.”

2.44 On being asked to furnish the list of pre-departure orientation - cum- training institutions established / functioning for skill up gradation of prospective emigrant workers in various States particularly in States where the labour outflow is substantial, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“As explained in the previous para, the Ministry is implementing the scheme of Pre-departure and Orientation through the MSME, select State Governments and apex Industry Associations. The State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have set up Nodal departments for looking after the welfare of the overseas Indians, including the workers. They also provide training to the potential migrant workers from these States and facilitate their employment overseas. NORKA in Kerala, the Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited (OMCL) in Tamil Nadu and Overseas Manpower Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (OMCAP) in Andhra Pradesh have developed the expertise for imparting the training to prospective

emigrant workers. The Pre-departure Orientation Manuals prepared by Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram under a Research Programme funded by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs provide the requisite training material for the pre-departure Orientation training programme.”

N. Emigration Act 1983

2.45 Emigration related complaints have necessitated a fresh look at the emigration process as enshrined in the Emigration Act, 1983 particularly with reference to the need for redefining the role and responsibilities of stake holders so as to ensure protection and welfare of Emigrant Workers and prospective emigrants. According to the Ministry the revised legislative framework required to be enacted is under finalization and will be placed before the cabinet shortly. On being asked to state the current status of the proposed amendments to the Emigration Act, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“MOIA has been pursuing amendment of the Emigration Act, 1983, and towards this end, had proposed the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2009, for introduction in the Rajya Sabha. However, the Bill could not be introduced as the House was adjourned sine die on 26.02.09. Subsequently, a decision was taken for enactment of a comprehensive new law to replace the existing Act. The new law is to be based on the e-Governance Business Processing Re-engineering Report and the draft National Policy on Overseas Employment. This will enable MOIA to implement the new paradigm of emigration management which has been building in recent times. The new legislation is aimed to bring about major changes in the existing law and will transform emigration into a simple, transparent, efficient, and humane economic process, facilitate legal migration, prevent illegal migration and human smuggling, enable ethical recruitment practices, enhance the protection and welfare of emigrants, manage student mobility and matters connected therewith. The draft proposal has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations.”

2.46 In its post-evidence reply, the Ministry further informed the Committee that:

“MOIA is proposing enactment of a new legislation namely Emigration Management Bill, 2009, to replace the existing Emigration Act, 1983. The draft Cabinet Note alongwith the draft Emigration Management Bill, 2009, is under finalization. After the proposal has been finalized, it will be referred to the Ministry of Law for vetting of the draft Bill. Subsequently, approval of the cabinet will be sought for introduction of the Bill in the Parliament.”

O. Setting up of PIO/NRI Universities:

2.47 On being asked as to why the work of NRI/PIO University, Bangalore was entrusted to Manipal Academy of Education, a private institution, the focus of this University, the topics and academics of this University and who would be heading it, the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in his reply during evidence has stated:

“.....On the NRI-PIO University, the Ministry examined two options – one having it in the Government sector and two, having a private sector partner to do it. The prime difficulty with doing it in the Government sector was that of resources because setting up of a university would need substantial input of resources which would have been very difficult for us to mobilize, Even as of now, the Committee may kindly note that our budget is entirely in the non-plan side. We have not yet been included in the plan section. So, when we wanted to start, but the best option was to start with a private partner. So, there was a process of selection with various experts associated with it, and it was through this transparent process of selection that the Manipal Group was identified as the partner for the first of the universities in NRI-PIO University. This university as now conceived, is going to be a multi-disciplinary university. They will start with under-graduate courses in various disciplines starting with, maybe some of the conventional types, including technology sector, medical, humanities and arts and science. But it should develop to have post-graduate and research levels; it is a longer term plan because it is at this stage that we would benefit from the real advantages of having a specialized university. The responsibility for implementation of the project will be with the private partner, but there will be close monitoring by the Government. But for monitoring, the initial proposal was that we will have an advisory board and that is what is there now. The advisory board consists of representatives of various academic organizations including the UGC, AICTE, the Medical Council, the Nursing Council, Pharmacy Council, etc. But at the meeting of the Advisory Council itself, the feeling was that there must be a separate law governing these universities; otherwise, the approval process for each of the courses is going to be very difficult and time-consuming. It has therefore been decided that we should have a legislation to govern the NRI-PIO university and we are in the process of drafting a legislation which we should be able to present to Parliament very soon....”

2.48 It has been informed that expressions of Interest for setting up four more PIO/NRI Universities in different cities in India have been called for. When asked to furnish the details regarding setting up four PIO/NRI Universities in the country, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“Advertisements were placed on all national dailies in February, 2009 inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to set up four more PIO/NRI Universities in different cities, other than Bengaluru. Since the number of proposals received (18) was inadequate, another advertisement was published in all national dailies in June, 2009. The last date for receipt of EOIs was 31st July, 2009. A total number of 57 EOIs have been received by the prescribed last date for their receipt”

2.49 Further on being asked as to whether the Ministry been able to identify four cities where PIO/NRI Universities are to be set up out of these 57 EOIs and any roadmap for the purpose of fructification of these Universities been worked out by the Ministry, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The Ministry has not identified the four cities where PIO/NRI Universities are to be set up. This decision would depend upon the proposals received, which are yet to be examined.

The roadmap for establishment of the Universities would be worked out after examination of the proposals received.”

P. Bilateral Social Security Agreement/Cooperation with other countries

2.50 On being asked about the current status of Bilateral Social Security Agreement/Cooperation with different countries for the benefit of expatriate workers on a reciprocal basis, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“Most of the developed countries have an umbrella social security system mandated by law. It is funded through mandatory contribution in the form of tax from all working people and their employer in order to provide multiple benefits like old age pension, disability insurance, health insurance and unemployment insurance. The Indian workers and companies in these countries are required to pay these contributions even if they are deputed in these countries for a short term/contract. However, the individuals do not get any benefit from the contribution made abroad on their return to India, as export of social Security Contribution is not permissible under the law in these countries. The Indian companies who operate in these countries also loose revenue and in the process become less competitive in the international market.

2. To protect the interest of the Indian professionals as well as self employed Indians working in the developed countries it is necessary for the Government to enter into social security agreement with the countries having sizable Indian professional workforce.

3. The following are the basic principles on which social security agreements (SSAs) with other countries are negotiated:

- (i) Avoidance of double taxation/contribution for the detached workers deployed for a short term period up to 60 months.
- (ii) Portability of benefits on relocation to the native country.
- (iii) Totalization of contribution period for determining the eligibility for benefit of payments.

4. The position of bilateral social security agreements (SSAs) with different countries is as under:

- SSA with Belgium, was signed in November, 2006. The agreement will come into force from 1st September, 2009.
- SSA with France was signed on 30th September, 2008. Forms and other procedures in connection with implementation of the agreement will be finalized soon and thereafter, the date for coming into force of the agreement will be decided.
- Agreement on social insurance (for posted workers only) with Germany was signed on 8th October, 2008. The agreement will come into force from 1st October, 2009. This agreement will benefit the Indian professionals from payment of double social security contribution for a period of four years of posting in Germany.
- Negotiations on SSA have been completed with the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Norway, and Hungary.
- Negotiations are going on with Denmark, Sweden, Germany (comprehensive SSA), Australia and Canada.
- Proposals for negotiation on SSA have been initiated with Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Austria, Finland, Cyprus, Italy and Greece.
- Two rounds of exploratory talks have been held with by USA.

Q. Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006

2.51 On being asked to furnish detailed note on Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) and India Health Care initiative, the Ministry furnished as follows:

“Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006

The PBBY, 2003 has been upgraded as the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006 to provide broader coverage to the emigrant workers. The PBBY, 2006 has been notified on 25.01.2006 and it has come into effect from 01.02.2006. The emigrant workers now get a minimum insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs (instead of Rs. 2 lakhs) and the policy is for the entire period of employment contract. An additional cover of Rs. 25,000/- for the legal expenses incurred by the emigrants in connection with their employment has also been included.

Salient features of Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006

- * The Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006 provides for an insurance cover of **a minimum sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs** payable to the nominee/legal heir in the event of death or permanent disability of any Indian emigrant who goes abroad for employment purpose **after obtaining emigration clearance** from the concerned Protector of Emigrants (POE).
- * In the case of death, besides the cost of transporting the dead body, the cost incurred on the **one-way airfare of one Attendant** shall also be reimbursed by the Insurance Company.
- * If a worker is not received by the employer on his arrival to the destination abroad or there is any substantive change in Employment Contract to his disadvantage or if the employment is pre-maturely terminated **within the period of employment** for no fault of the emigrant, the Insurance Company shall reimburse one way economy class airfare provided the grounds of repatriation are certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- * In cases where the **repatriation is arranged by the Indian Mission/Post**, the Insurance Company **shall re-imburse the actual expenses** to the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- * The Insured person shall be reimbursed actual one way economy class airfare by the Insurance Company if he falls sick or is declared medically unfit to commence or continue working and the service contract is terminated by the Foreign Employer within twelve months of taking the insurance.
- * The Insurance Policy shall be **valid for a minimum period of two years or the actual period of contract, whichever is longer.**

- * The Insurance Policy shall also provide **medical cover of a minimum of Rs. 50,000/-** as cash-less hospitalization and/or reimbursement of actual medical expenses of the insured emigrant workers on grounds of accidental injuries and/or sickness/ailments/diseases occurring during the period of insurance whether in India or in the country of his employment.
- * An insured person shall be covered for **a minimum sum of Rs. 25,000/-** in connection with the **legal expenses** incurred by him in any litigation relating to his/her employment.
- * The Insurance Policy shall also provide **maternity benefits, subject to a minimum cover of Rs. 20,000/- in case of women emigrants.** In case of medical treatment in the country of employment, the maternity benefits would be provided if the requisite documents are certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- * The **family of emigrant worker** in India consisting of spouse and two dependent children up to twenty one years of age shall be **entitled to hospitalization cover** in the event of death or permanent disability of the insured person for a maximum amount of **Rs. 25,000/- per annum.**
- * The Insurance Companies shall charge **fair and reasonable premium.** Service tax will be charged as applicable.

Applications:

The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana is applicable to only citizens of India who apply for and obtain an emigration clearance as required under Emigration Act, 1983. This Yojana is not applicable in the event of war or internal conflict in the country to which the citizen of India holding the said policy has given for work.

Revision of new rates of premium and additional benefits implemented w.e.f 1.04.08:

PBBY 2006 has since been amended vide instructions dated 28th February, 2008, implementing the reduced premium rates along with increased / benefits w.e.f. 1.04.08. This was following the decision taken in the meeting held under the chairmanship of Secretary, MOIA with the Insurance companies listed under the PBBY on 15th March, 2007. The rates of reduced premium and the additional benefits, wherever applicable, in place of and in addition to the other existing benefits under the PBBY 2006, for implementation w.e.f. 1.04.08, are as per details given below:

Minimum sum for which insured under the PBBY	Rs. 10 lakh (in place of existing Rs. 5 lakh)
Hospitalisation (Medical Expenses) covering injuries / sickness / ailment / diseases	Rs. 75,000/- (in place of existing Rs. Rs. 50,000/-)
Repatriation covers medically unfit	Actual one-way economy class air fare.
Family Hospitalization in India	Rs. 50000/- (in place of existing Rs. 25,000/-)
Maternity	Rs. 25,000/- (in place of existing Rs. 20,000/-)
Attendant	Actual One way economy class air fare
Employment Contingency	-do-
Legal expenses	Rs. 30,000/- (in place of existing Rs. 25,000/-)
Actual Premium to be charged (without any hidden costs)	Rs. 275 for 2 years policy period Rs. 375 for 3 years policy period

2.52 Regarding India Health Care Initiatives, the Ministry has informed:

“Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Association of Physician of Indian Origin (AAPI) during Pravasi Bharatiya divas 2006 at Hyderabad to implement Health Care Projects in India.

AAPI is one of the major association of Indian doctor in the USA with more than 45,000 membership. AAPI has expertise in Primary and Secondary Health care and had already shown a keen interest in working in Village and Taluka Level in many Indian States. AAPI has done a lot of research in primary and secondary health care and with this expertise they are considered to play a very important role in extending primary health care at Village and Taluka Level.

The Ministry has defined three project areas for starting the Pilot Projects:

- Primary health care
- Emergency Medical Service
- Geriatrics

Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have been selected to implement the project on a pilot basis.”

R. Effect of Global Economic Recession

2.53 The Committee desired the Ministry to explain the initiatives being undertaken by the Government to rehabilitate the unskilled/semi-skilled Indian emigrant workers returning to India particularly those from the gulf Countries, the measures taken to provide assistance to retrenched Indian professionals working abroad and as to whether any data been collected regarding such affected people, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has been constantly monitoring the impact of global economic recession on the migrant Indian labour employed overseas, especially, in the Gulf region. Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE), an autonomous organization under the Ministry was assigned the task of conducting a study on the subject and submit recommendations for taking suitable steps in this regard. The final Report of the Study is awaited. Meantime, the impact assessment made by the Ministry indicates that there is no major retrenchment of overseas Indian workers from the GCC Countries. Ministry is presently engaged in finalizing a Co-contributory Pension Fund for the Overseas Workers which would also act as a Welfare Fund.

In the absence of any empirical data of retrenchment of Indian professionals working abroad, the Ministry has not formulated any financial assistance Scheme to this category of workers. Awards also renew development of strong ties between Overseas Indians and the India.”

2.54 Further on being asked as to when ICOE was assigned the task of conducting the study and terms of references and as to what purpose would be served by having the Report when the damage due to recession and related problems would be done, the Ministry in its reply has stated:

“The terms of reference of the study was to assess the impact of global slow down on Indian migrant workers in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Malaysia. The study was commissioned to be undertaken by M/s Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. On 28th April, 2009 after inviting bids from important consultants, and the final report was submitted on 29th September, 2009 after visits to six GCC countries and Malaysia were undertaken by a team of their professionals.

“Mechanisms could be put in place to overcome such situations in future through better preparedness for the return and resettlement of workers if they are adversely affected by the economic downturn.”

PART-III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee note that the Budget Estimates for the year 2008-09 were Rs. 65 crore and provisional Revised Estimates were pegged at Rs. 45 crore, which reflects that Rs. 20 crore remained unutilized during the year 2008-09, while Rs. 14.06 crore was unspent during the year 2007-08 and the position during 2006-07 was no better which shows that under utilization of funds has become a trend during the last 3 years. The Committee are of the view that but for this trend, this unspent amount could have been utilized somewhere else. The Budget Estimates for the year 2009-10 are Rs. 80 crore which has been reduced to Rs. 76 crore after the cut. As per the Ministry's own admission the shortfall in the Financial Year 2008-2009 was on the capital head of account due to non-utilization of the allocation made for the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK). The increase in the BE 2009-10 is primarily due to the expansion of the activities of the institutions established for the benefit of the overseas Indian community. The Committee are not happy with such state of affairs. The Committee are of the view that budgetary estimates should be realistic as far as possible. The Committee note that the Ministry has prepared a comprehensive action plan for the purpose. The Committee recommend that the comprehensive action plan prepared by the Ministry should be adhered to properly for optimal utilization of funds. All ground work should have been done before hand such as approvals for building plan, land use etc. to avoid unnecessary delays as has happened in case of PBK. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should

pay focused attention towards ensuring that there are no unutilized funds in future as has been the case during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

2. The Committee are surprised to find that in spite of their earlier recommendation regarding filling up of vacancies in the Ministry expeditiously, 40 posts in Group 'B' and 'D' and two vacant posts to be filled by Department of Official Languages are still lying vacant. Similar situation persists in PoE Offices also. The Committee find it quite strange that some posts encadred in the Ministry of External Affairs are also vacant and the Ministry of External Affairs has shown inability to provide personnel. The Committee further regret to observe that even four years after the creation of this Ministry, they have to depend on other Ministries for staff strength. The Committee suggest to the Ministry to take up the matter of the vacant posts at the highest level in the Ministry of Home Affairs and MEA as well as in the Department of Official Languages to fill up these vacant posts immediately. The Committee also suggest that pending formal selection of staff and also to cope up with the increased workload, the Ministry may recruit qualified temporary staff in Group 'B' and 'D' on contract basis through local Employment Exchange or on deputation basis. The Committee also recommend to the Ministry to take immediate steps for filling up the required number of vacancies in PoE Offices too.

3. The Committee note the existence of the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), which is engaged in the field of providing all information related to investing in India that a potential Overseas Indian Investor would need. The queries relating to investments across a wide gamut of sectors are supposed to be replied through the OIFC Website, including those in respect of infrastructure and social sectors. OIFC is mandated to serve as a clearing house for investment related information to potential investors besides being a one stop agency for replying queries and providing handholding services. This can be possible only when the Website is upgraded and updated regularly to provide all kind of information. The Committee feel that OIFC is not working as a single window to all investment related queries. The Website is not updated quite often. In such a scenario, the very purpose of setting up of OIFC gets defeated. The Committee desire that the OIFC be provided all possible assistance by the Government in developing a Business networking platform and business directory to fulfill its mandate to facilitate Business to Business partnership. The Committee find it extremely important that the OIFC must encourage potential overseas investors to invest in India and more importantly – by informing them about incentives to do so. The Committee also desire that the Government should evolve a mechanism to collect the information about the actual investment coming to India in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy).

4. The Committee are happy to note that considering the necessity for establishing an institutional mechanism for promotion of Overseas Employment,

better protection and welfare of Overseas Indian Workers and for study of emerging overseas employment opportunities, Ministry has set up a Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment (CPOE) which has since been renamed as Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE). The activities have been undertaken/planned for this year as developing a labour market assessment in select European Countries by International Organization for Migration (IOM), India-European Union Mobility Cooperation and design of a pension programme for returning workers are attractive and impressive. The Committee are of the view that it should be ensured that activities undertaken by the Council (ICOE) are carried out vigorously and all possible efforts should be made in this direction.

5. The Ministry has admitted that a key issue in addressing the problems and concerns of migrant workers and the Overseas Indian Community is the absence of a data base, empirical research and analysis that can support appropriate policy decisions. The migrant workers do not have access to the Helpline numbers provided in the Missions and Posts abroad nor there is any dedicated officer to help them. The Committee are unhappy with such sorry state of affairs. The Committee want that Helpline numbers and name and telephone number of dedicated officer should be prominently displayed in the Missions/Posts abroad. Within India, the information containing the Helpline numbers and name of nodal officer should be supplied to all State Governments/Chief Secretaries/District Collectors besides being circulated among Members of Parliament for dissemination at Block and Panchayat levels. This should also be done through other means of publicity viz. TV/Radio/Newspapers etc. The Committee want to be

informed in this regard at periodic intervals. The Committee further recommend that a comprehensive data base may be prepared at the earliest to address the problems and concerns of migrant workers and expectations of the Diaspora.

6. The allocation for Know India Programme (KIP) has been raised from Rs. 87 lakh in 2008-09 to Rs. 1.25 crore in 2009-10. An increase of 43.68% over BE 2008-09. The Committee regret to observe the low level of participation viz. only 31, 34 and 22 participants joined the programme during the 9th, 10th and 11th KIP respectively. The Committee note with satisfaction that the Ministry is now organizing 3 KIPs each financial year and up to 40 participants could take part in each of these programmes which was restricted earlier to PIOs from a selected list of 32 countries, has now opened to PIOs from all countries and it has also decided to reimburse 90% of the total cost of air ticket to participants from their country to India and back from 12th KIP onwards instead of 50% of air fare reimbursed earlier.

The Committee desire that the Ministry may increase the number of participants in the KIPs to be organized every financial year keeping in view the opening of programme to PIOs from all countries. The Ministry should also think about introduction of more incentives to the participants to make KIP a success in future. The Committee recommend that concrete efforts should be put in place to ensure high level of participation in KIP. A wait list of desirous participants should be made to replace the drop outs.

7. The Committee are happy to note that the allocation for the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been increased, keeping in view the additional services to be provided by the OWRC. The Committee observe that since its inception in January, 2008 till June, 2009, 15716 calls were received by OWRC Helpline which includes 14,684 enquiries, 309 complaints with complete details and 723 complaints with incomplete details. Out of the 309 complaints with complete details, 275 complaints have been redressed. The Committee further observe that the popularity of OWRC and faith of the people in it, is growing for seeking relevant information for their benefit as well as for registering their grievances. The Committee want that the causes for delay, if any, in finally disposing of complaints received by OWRC should be looked into and suitable remedial measures be taken to ensure expeditious action on complaints. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should provide all possible assistance required by the OWRC to make their helpline a State of the Art Resource Centre. For ensuring the success of OWRC helpline, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should make vigorous efforts in educating the immigrants about legal immigration procedures, the pitfalls of illegal immigration and precautions to be taken during the recruitment and overseas employment.

8. The Committee observe that allocation made for legal and financial assistance to Indian women facing problems in NRI marriages has been increased from Rs. 2 lakh in 2008-09 to Rs. 15 lakh in 2009-10. The Committee note that the funds under the scheme are allocated to the Indian Missions/Posts

abroad based on the projections made by them, but 9 Indian Missions have failed to utilize the allocated funds under the scheme during 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Committee may be apprised of the reasons for under utilization of allocated funds by the Indian Missions under the scheme and the impact of the information campaign to educate prospective brides and their families. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should endeavour to formulate a panel of legal experts for such cases within the Ministry as well as in Indian Missions/Posts abroad who are familiar with the legal systems of other countries since many of the victims are not familiar with legal systems abroad.

9. The construction of PBK in New Delhi is a glaring example of Ministry's ineptitude where inspite of repeated recommendations by the Committee, they have not been able to start the construction work and the ambitious project of PBK in New Delhi has not been materialized as yet. The Committee are not satisfied with the Ministry's explanation in this regard and observe that the Ministry was not serious enough in the matter and the project has been languishing for the last 4-5 years.

The Committee desire that all formalities regarding construction of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) should be completed within a time frame and the whole process of necessary approval w.r.t. design/drawing, obtaining necessary clearance of statutory authorities, inviting bids and awarding of contract for the construction of building should be completed at the earliest. The Committee feel that this is paramount to avoid time and cost overruns. The Committee strongly recommend to the Ministry to ensure early construction of PBK by accelerating

all the processes involved so that PBK becomes functional within the time limit i.e. by the end of 2011.

10. The Committee observe that there are eight PoE offices in the country and none of these offices are functioning from their own premises. The PoE offices of Delhi, Chandigarh and Kolkata are functioning from Government buildings whereas the remaining offices are functioning from rented premises. The Committee also observe that the Ministry has not made any proposal in the Demands for Grants (2009-10) under the Head Capital Outlay on Public Works in this regard. The Committee are not satisfied with the Ministry's casual reply in this regard that there is no plan to construct own buildings. The Committee are unable to understand the reasons therefor. This attitude of the Ministry has pained the Committee very much. Therefore, Committee strongly recommend the Ministry to draw a comprehensive and time-bound plan with adequate budgetary support in the coming years and to put regular monitoring mechanism in place to gradually accommodate all PoE offices in their own buildings to save huge rental outgo of the Ministry. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard on quarterly basis.

11. The Committee observe that Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) had planned to organize "Investors Interactive Meetings" in eight regions showing a range of exclusive products and products from India Corporate to Overseas Indian Investment in real estate, wealth management, health care etc. First such meeting was held in November 2008 in Oman. But due to the global financial

crisis and sharp decline in investor interest across the world, further investor meets have been deferred for the present. The Committee are of the view that while the global market is recovering from recession, Investor Interactive Meets may be planned in near future so that India can be showcased in a better way.

12. The Committee note that a tripartite Project titled 'Administration of Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle from India and the Philippines to the United Arab Emirates' has been approved for implementation among the three Countries. The objective of the Pilot Project is to develop best practices in the administration of the Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle leading to a framework for cooperation among Asian countries of origin and destination. The Pilot Project aims to achieve the objectives like improving the quality of recruitment and pre-deployment processes, providing the workers with appropriate working and living conditions and treatment during their employment abroad, preparing the workers for their return at the end of their contract; and facilitating the return and re-integration of the workers into their home countries during the four phases of employment cycle. The Committee consider it a landmark project which can go a long way in ameliorating the plight of Diaspora. The Committee are of the view that such type of projects should not be restricted to only three countries and hence may be undertaken with other countries too. The Committee want that the possibility of such projects being spread to other countries may be explored sincerely.

13. The Committee note that the information campaign project in six selected States for creation of awareness among the general public about the risk of irregular migration is being implemented. This project will address some of the immediate and urgent concerns arising out of irregular migration, especially in rural areas. The Committee want that such prestigious campaigns should not be limited only to six States. There is no point in ignoring the other areas, so the Committee want that such campaign may be spread over to other States. The Committee want to be apprised of the impact of this campaign among targeted people and the extent of its success.

14. The Committee are of the view that deliberations and recommendations of the third annual conference of the Head of the Missions in the major labour receiving countries held in New Delhi to provide an opportunity to the Indian Missions in various labour receiving countries to share their experience in dealing with the labour issues amongst themselves and with the Central Government will certainly help in understanding issues relating to migrant labourers. The Committee hope that problems of workers will be minimized after these recommendations come into force which has resulted in formulating necessary policy framework for handling labour migration matters in these countries. The Committee want to be informed about the status of implementation of the recommendations.

15. The Committee are not convinced at all with the reply of the Government regarding amendment of the Emigration Act 1983 as the Government is

furnishing similar replies for the last 3-4 years and no positive result has come out so far. The dillydallying attitude of the Ministry in this regard is beyond comprehension. The Committee are given to understand that instead of amending the Emigration Act, 1983, a new comprehensive Bill namely the Emigration Management Bill, 2009 is under finalization. The Committee observe that already undue delay has taken place in this regard and there is no point in procrastinating further. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that all formalities regarding this Bill should be completed at the earliest and it should be introduced during the next session of the Parliament positively.

16. The Committee understand that setting up of PIO/NRI Universities is a prestigious task and the Committee are of the view that the issue should be taken up at the Government level. However, the Committee find that the project has now been assigned to Private Partner Manipal Academy of Higher Educational Trust (MAHET) and its advisory board has been constituted to evaluate the Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Committee want the Government should keep close monitoring on it. The MAHET should be advised to prepare a transparent and time bound plan for its completion. A legislation to govern the PIO/NRI University at Bengaluru should be enacted at the earliest to avoid any kind of delay in its establishment. The Committee also want that the PIO University should impart knowledge of all disciplines including arts, culture and literature.

The Committee are also of the view that all formal action for setting up of four more PIO/NRI Universities should be taken up at the earliest to ensure the commissioning of these projects without any delay.

17. The Committee appreciate the efforts being made by the Government to enter into social security Agreements with the countries having sizable Indian professional workforce to protect the interests of the Indian professionals as well as self employed Indians working in the developing countries. The Committee are of the view that such agreements will benefit our people and the Indian Government as well. It will not only enable workforce to avoid the payment of taxes again and again but will ensure the portability of benefits on relocation to the native country. The Committee recommend that the Government should try to make efforts to sign such agreements with USA and gulf countries where huge number of Indians are working.

NEW DELHI
27 November 2009
Agrahayana 06, 1931(Saka)

Sushma Swaraj,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on External Affairs

Appendix-I

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 30th October, 2009

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1315 hrs. in Room No. 62, Parliament House.

Present

Smt. Sushma Swaraj – Chairperson

Members Lok Sabha

2. Shri S. Alagiri (Cuddalore)
3. Shri Vishwa Mohan Kumar
4. Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
5. Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh
6. Shri Janardhana Swamy
7. Shri Shivkumar Udasi

Rajya Sabha

8. Shri Ashwani Kumar
9. Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla
10. Shri Shreegopal Vyas
11. Shri Bharatkumar B. Raut
12. Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan

Secretariat

1. Shri R.K. Jain - Director
2. Shri Hoti Lal - Deputy Secretary

Representatives of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

1. Shri K. Mohandas - Secretary
2. Shri D.N. Srivastava - Joint Secretary (DS)
3. Shri G. Gurucharan - Joint Secretary (FS)
4. Dr. Ranbir Singh - PGE
5. Shri A.K. Chatterjee - Director (Finance)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to the sitting of the Committee. The Chairperson then drew attention of the witnesses to Direction 55(I) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee then took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in connection with examination of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2009-2010.

4. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 2009**

**The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1145 hrs. in Committee Room
No. 62, Parliament House.**

PRESENT

Smt. Sushma Swaraj – Chairperson

**MEMBERS
Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Anto Antony
3. Shri Vishwa Mohan Kumar
4. Shri Pinaki Misra
5. Shri Janardhana Swamy
6. Shri Shivkumar Udasi

Rajya Sabha

7. Dr. Karan Singh
8. Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil
9. Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla
10. Shri Shreegopal Vyas
11. Shri Bharatkumar B. Raut
12. Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri U.S. Saxena | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.K. Jain | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Hoti Lal | - | Deputy Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2009-2010. The Chairperson invited Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Report.

2. The Members suggested certain modifications and desired that those be suitably incorporated into the body of the Report.

3. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report in the light of modifications suggested and consequential changes, if any, arising out of factual verification of the Report by the Ministry and thereafter, to present the Report to Parliament. The draft Report was then adopted.

The meeting was then adjourned.