

13

**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2011-2012)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2012-2013)**

THIRTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

MAY, 2012/VAISAKHA, 1934 (Saka)

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(2011-2012)**

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**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2012-2013)**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 8th May, 2012
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 8th May, 2012**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

May, 2012/ Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2011-2012)**

Shri Ananth Kumar - Chairman

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri S. Alagiri
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
6. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
7. Shri T.K.S. Elangovan
8. Shri P. Karunakaran
9. Shri Pradeep Majhi
10. Shri Inder Singh Namdhari
11. Shri Zafar Ali Naqvi
12. Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
13. Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao*
14. Shri Takam Sanjoy
15. Smt. Sushila Saroj
16. Dr. Bhola Singh
17. Shri Janardhana Swamy
18. Dr. Shashi Tharoor

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya
23. Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard
24. Shri Murli Deora
25. Shri H.K. Dua
26. Dr. K.P. Ramalingam
27. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut
28. Dr. Karan Singh \$
29. Shri Shivanand Tiwari
30. Shri Tarun Vijay
31. Vacant#

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri U.S. Saxena | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri K. D. Muley | - | Director |
| 3. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri A. Sivanandam | - | Under Secretary |

* Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao nominated to the Committee on External Affairs w.e.f. 25.11.2011.

\$ Ceased to be the Member of the Committee due to expiry of term of Dr. Karan Singh, Member Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 27.01.12 and re-nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 02.02.2012.

Ceased to be the Member of the Committee due to expiry of term of Shri Shreegopal Vyas, Member Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 02.04.12

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2011-2012) on Demands for Grants (2012-2013) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

2. The Committee heard the views of the representatives of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs at the sitting held on 3rd April, 2012.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and others for placing before them the material and information that the Committee desired and also appearing before the Committee for placing their considered views before them in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants (2012-13).

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 4 May, 2012.

5. The Minutes of the sittings of the Committee held on 3 April, 2012 and 4 May, 2012 are given in Appendix-I and II to the Report.

6. For facility of reference, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI
04 May, 2012
14 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

ANANTH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on External Affairs

CHAPTER- I

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RRECOMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 9TH REPORT (15TH LOK SABHA) ON DEMAND FOR GRANTS (2011-12) OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

The 9th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2011-12 was presented to the Lok Sabha on 29th August, 2011 and laid in the Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Report contained 15 recommendations/observations.

1.2 In compliance of the Direction 73-A of the Directions by the Speaker, the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs has to make a statement in the Lok Sabha giving the status of implementation of the Recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their 9th Report (15th Lok Sabha) within six months from the date of presentation of the Report.

1.3 The Action Taken Replies on the Recommendations contained in the 9th Report (15th Lok Sabha) have been received from the Ministry and the Action Taken Report on the same has been prepared.

1.4 On the basis of Action Taken Replies received from the Ministry of overseas Indian Affairs on the 9th Report, the Committee presented their 12th Report (Action Taken Report) to the Parliament on 24th April 2012. The Committee in its 12th report has commented on the action taken replies furnished by the Ministry in respect of recommendations Nos. 3,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13 and 15 contained in the 9th Report. The final replies as and when received from the Ministry will be laid in Parliament.

CHAPTER - II

INTORDUCTORY

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was established in 2004 to build closer and wide ranging ties between India and it's 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 role played by the Overseas Indian Community in the country's development process is crucial and full of possibilities. The Overseas Indian Community constitutes the second largest Diaspora in the world. Numbering around 25 million and spread over 189 countries, the Overseas Indian Community comprises Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Residents Indians (NRIs).

2.2 The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs comprises the erstwhile Emigration Division of the Ministry of Labour & Employment and the NRI Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, which now functions as the Diaspora Division. Two Divisions namely, Financial Services and Emigration Policy Division were established later. A new Economic Division has been created in the Ministry in September, 2011. The objective behind establishing the Ministry was to create a focal point of interface for Overseas Indians including Persons of Indian Origin and to give them mainstream attention.

The objectives of the Ministry are as under:-

1. To facilitate sustained interaction of Overseas Indians with India and offer them a wide variety of services in economic, social and cultural matters.

2. To extend institutional support for individual initiatives and community action to harness the knowledge, skills and investible resources of Overseas Indians to supplement the national development efforts.
3. To strengthen the bond between India and its Diaspora by recognizing and celebrating its success and achievements.
4. To transform management of emigration through appropriate domestic interventions and international cooperation.

2.3 To promote and nurture a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between India and the Overseas Indians, the Ministry is driven by following four key policy imperatives:

- a. Offer customized solutions to address the varied expectations of the diverse Overseas Indian community.
- b. Lend a strategic dimension to India's engagement with its overseas community.
- c. Tap the investible diasporic community in terms of knowledge and resources.
- d. Anchor diasporic initiatives in the States.

CHAPTER -III

REPORT

OVERALL ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE YEAR 2012-2013

A. Overall Budgetary proposal and allocation

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was established in September 2004. The Demand for Grants of the Ministry for the year 2012-13 were laid on the table on the March 28, 2012.

The Budget of the Ministry has traditionally been on the non-plan side. The BE for the year 2012-13 is Rs.114.77 crores which is Rs. 33.77 crores higher vis-a-vis RE 2011-12. The actual allocation made at BE 2012-13 as against each Head is as under:-

2052	-	Secretariat General	38.10 crores
2061	-	External Affairs	56.67 crores
4059	-	Capital Outlay on Public Works	20.00 crores
Total			114.77 crores

3.2 The demands *vis-à-vis* allocation of funds made and its actual utilization by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has been discussed in details in succeeding paragraphs.

3.3 The following table shows the overall budgetary Allocation made for the MOIA during the last five years alongwith RE for the respective years and actual and percentage of utilization of RE:-

	(Rs. In Crores)				
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
BE	50	65	80	81	81
RE	40	45	60	73	81*
Actual	35.4	45	56.23	67.87	81*
% of RE	88.50	99.00	93.71	92.97	100%*

* Expected expenditure Actual upto January 31, 2012 was Rs. 41.23

The quarter-wise utilization is given below:-

Year 2011-12	Utilisation (Rs. in crore)
1 st quarter	10.42
2 nd quarter	18.28
3 rd quarter	10.89
4 th quarter	41.41 (Anticipated)

3.4 It may be observed from the above table that during all these years except during 2008-09, every year, BE was revised downwards and actual utilization was even lower than RE. When asked about the reasons for that type of utilization trend, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“This year at the time of budget discussion in the Ministry of Finance, it was pointed out that the utilization of funds upto September was more than in comparison of last years. Hence, in

the year 2011-12, BE figures of allocation were retained as RE figures of Rs.81 Crore.

The flagship event of the Ministry viz Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is organized in the last quarter of every year. The expenditure is booked after the event. The bills for the activities which are outsourced are received late. Booking of expenditure incurred by the Ministry of External Affairs is also received late. Hence, in the initial months the Utilization of Budget is less.”

3.5 The Committee were not satisfied with the justification given by the Ministry that bill settlement of PBD as the reason for such huge last quarter expenditure and wanted to know the further justification/clarification for anticipated expenditure of Rs. 41.41 crores in the last quarter of the Financial year 2011-12 when allocation for PBD was 6.00 crores only. Thereafter, the Ministry submitted following expenditure details:-

“The other major expenditure which has been booked (apart from PBD) in the last quarter of FY 2011-12 are

1) Media Awareness Campaign	-	Rs. 7.14 crore
2) OIFC	-	Rs. 4.5 crore
3) Grants in Aid	-	Rs. 1.62 crore
4) ICOE	-	Rs. 2 crore
5) IDF-OI	-	Rs. 1.15 crore
6) Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra	-	Rs. 6.4 crore
7) Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children-		Rs. 1.99 crore
8) Know India Programme	-	Rs. 0.67 crore”

3.6 The Ministry further explained the reasons and also stated the following initiatives being taken by the Ministry during 2012-13 to improve the position:-

“The continuous trend of expenditure in the last quarter for last several years is due to the nature of MOIA’s mandate. However, steps are being taken to start the media awareness campaign during the first half of 2012-13. Regarding OIFC, ICOE, IDF-OI and Grants-in-Aid, amounts are released only after audited statement of expenditure alongwith utilization certificates are made available by these bodies. The processing and release of funds based on utilization certificates also takes some times.

Apart from above, the expenditure on Overseas Indian Centres Legal Assistance to women facing NRI marriages is booked by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The expenditure incurred in foreign countries on foreign travel of the MOIA officers is also booked by the MEA. Similarly, expenditure towards Overseas Indian Centres and printing of OCI tickets/ECR stickers is also received late. The booking of expenditure is generally received late from the MEA/respective Missions/India Security Press, Nasik.”

3.7 On being asked why the Ministry lags behind in the utilization of funds in the last quarter, the Secretary, MOIA clarified during the evidence as under:-

“While against the RE, we are going to mention that we have spent about 92.46 per cent but we internally know that as far as FE is concerned, it is almost 100 per cent.”

3.8 When asked about the strategy of the Ministry to ensure full and appropriate utilization of Budget earmarked for the year 2012-13, MOIA assured as under:-

“The Ministry will aim for a full and appropriate utilization of budget earmarked for the year 2012-13 by closely monitoring the progress of the schemes and incurring due expenditures.”

3.9 Secretary, MOIA further clarified the position about the steps to be taken to ensure better utilization as under :-

“Review briefings will be conducted regularly to oversee the financial progress/scheme – wise to avoid accumulation of expenditure at the fag end of the year as much as possible.”

3.10 On being asked to furnish the details of demands made by MOIA during Budget meetings 2012-13 with the Ministry of Finance and the head-wise actual allocation of funds made by them, the Ministry furnished the following details:-

Budget Allocation: 2012-13

(Rs. in crore)

Revenue Section		
	BE (Proposed to MoF)	Allocated
Major Head - 2052	49.79	38.10
- 2061	68.00	56.67
Capital Section		
Major Head - 4059	45.20	20.00
Total	162.99	114.77

3.11 In response to the observation of the Committee that for the first time the Ministry has got a Budget above Rs.100 crores (114.77 crores) the Secretary MOIA clarified during the evidence as under:-

“It seems that we have got a very big jump from Rs. 81 crore to Rs. 114 crores. But actually, we have gone down as you had mentioned in your introductory remarks and the hon. Members have observed by going into the fine print. We have gone down actually because the big

jump is on account of just two major items, the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra and the E-migrate project.”

3.12 On being further enquired about the reasons for rise in the Budgetary allocation for the year 2012-13 from Rs. 81.00 crores in BE 2011-12 to Rs. 114.77 crores in BE 2012-13 the MOIA stated that:-

“The main reasons for increase were due to making provision of Rs. 22.00 crore for e-Migrate Project in BE 2012-13 and enhancement of the budget provision for Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra from Rs. 9.00 crore to Rs. 20.00 crore. The details of the various schemes are given in the Detailed Demands for Grants.”

3.13 When the Committee desired to know whether the proposed Outlay of Rs. 114.77 crores earmarked for the year 2012-13 would be sufficient for achieving the goal set for the Ministry, the MOIA stated in a written reply as under:-

“The outlay of Rs.114.77 crore made in the current financial year does not appear to be adequate. Additional funds will be sought based on the trend of expenditure on the various schemes.”

3.14 On being asked about the ongoing/new programmes or schemes that are likely to suffer due to insufficient budget allocation for the year 2012-13, the Ministry in a written reply has stated that the following programmes are likely to be affected due to less allocation during the year 2012-13:-

- 1.Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children
2. Overseas Indian Centres
3. Indian Council of Overseas Employment
4. Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra.”

3.15 The Committee note that the Budget Allocation of MOIA for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 114.77 crores comprising Revenue Section as Rs. 94.77 crores and Rs. 20.00 crores as Capital Section. The Budget Estimates for the year 2011-12 was Rs. 81.00 crores which was kept at the same level at Revised Estimates (RE) stage and Rs. 41.23 crores only were spent up to January 31st 2012. Amidst the trend of lower expenditure even than Revised Estimates during the last several years, it is very pleasing to learn that for the first time the Ministry would perhaps be able to spend hundred percent of BE and RE during the year 2011-12. But the Committee are still not satisfied with the trend of expenditure being made in each quarter of the Financial Year. The Committee observe that during the last quarter of the year 2011-12, 41.41 crores were to be spent out of the total BE/RE of Rs. 81 crores. The Committee is also not convinced at all with the reasons given by the Ministry stating that due to mandate of the Ministry, the maximum expenditure is being made in the last quarter of the financial year. Since all the other activities/schemes of the Ministry except PBD are continuous activities, the expenditure and settlement should also be evenly distributed as far as possible during each quarter of the year. The Committee, therefore, desire that by regular monitoring of the progress of the schemes/programmes, the Ministry should ensure that there is no accumulation of expenditure at the fag end of the financial year. The Committee also desire that as far as possible, the media awareness programmes should be scheduled equally during each quarter of the year with regular settlement of Bills. The Committee further desire that expenditure booked by Ministry of External Affairs/Missions/Posts and other agencies should also be obtained on regular basis for an early settlement during each quarter. The Committee hope that by these measures the issue of unevenly spread

expenditure of the Ministry during each quarter of the year may be resolved appropriately.

(Recommendation No. 1)

3.16 The Committee note that as against the demand of Rs. 162.99 crores during 2012-13, only Rs. 114.77 crores has been allocated at BE stage. The Committee also observe a visible jump in BE is on account of just two major items i.e. Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra and e-Migrate Project. But actually, the Ministry has been allocated less funds and as such it has gone down. The Committee further observe that this curtailment in allocation for many important flagship schemes and projects of the Ministry like Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children, Overseas Indian Centres, Indian Council of Overseas Employment and even the lower allocation than the desired for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra will hamper the activities of the Ministry. The Ministry has to observe more realistic Budgetary projections, ensure judicious quarterly utilization of funds well within the BE allocation and thereafter take up the matter with Finance Ministry from beginning to obtain the required funds at RE stage. In the absence of this strategy programmes/projects will suffer due to downward revision and that will ultimately deprive the beneficiaries of the intended benefits.

(Recommendation No. 2)

B. Revenue and Capital Section

3.17 The details of the Budget Allocation made under Revenue and Capital Section in BE 2011-12, RE 2011-12 and BE 2012-13 are as under:-

	Rs. (In Crores)		
	BE 2011-12	RE 2011-12	BE 2012-13
Revenue Section	71.80	67.30	94.77
Capital Section	9.20	13.70	20.00
Total	81.00	81.00	114.77

3.18 The allocation under the Revenue Section has been made to meet the expenditure to be incurred on Secretariat General Services and External Affairs. Similarly, the allocation under the Capital Section has been made on account of construction of the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK), which would be a centre to commemorate the achievements of the Indian Diaspora, and for construction/purchase of new office premises for the offices of Protector of Emigrations located in different States.

When asked about the justification for upward revision in BE 2012-13 under the Revenue and Capital Section, the Ministry in its reply has stated:-

“The increase was due to more requirements of funds under the head office expenses, rent, rates & taxes, advertising and publicity, information technology, office expenses. The need for requirement of more office expenses has been due to renovation of some of the rooms and incurring expenditure on the evacuees of Libyan crises. The revised estimates of rent, rates & taxes are based on the actual requirement for payment. As regards requirement for more expenses

under the information technology (office expenses) it is because of incurring expenditure on e-migrate project and purchase of stickers etc by the POE offices.

The increase in the Administrative cost is due to provision of Rs. 22.00 crores out of Rs. 38.10 crores for Information Technology (office expenses) which is meant for e-migrate project. The requirement of project has been projected based on the contract signed with Tata Consultancy Services for payment to them. Incidentally it is stated that expenditure in other Object heads has been kept at the same level or lower which may not be adequate to meet the expenditure and additional funds may be required.”

3.19 When asked about the justification for keeping the expenditure on other object heads at the same level or lower level, the MOIA submitted the following explanation in a written reply:-

“Provision of Rs. 49.79 crore was proposed for the year 2012-13. The Ministry of Finance agreed to a provision of Rs. 38.10 crore only. As for the e-Migrate project, the provision of Rs. 22.00 crore has been earmarked for Information Technology in the current FY, the balance provision has been bifurcated for other object heads, which is less than the BE & RE figures of the last year in many object heads. As such, the lower allocation has been made for other activities which would not be adequate to meet the expenditure.”

3.20 The Ministry is implementing a comprehensive e-governance project on Migration. The e-migrate project aims to transform e-migration into simple and humane economic process. The Ministry has stated that the major increase under the Revenue Head is because an additional allocation of Rs. 22.00 crores has been made for e-Migrate project and an increased allocation of Rs. 20.00 crores under the capital head is made for the construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK).

While giving further details of the e-Migrate project and the steps being taken for implementation of the Project, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“A Master Service Agreement (MSA) has been signed between the Government of India and the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the implementation agency of the project on 30.12.2011. Project is scheduled for completion within 58 weeks from the date of signing of the contract. The total cost of the project is Rs.92.67 crores. In BE 2011-12 a provision of Rs.38 lakhs was made to meet out the initial expenses. Since the project is in the process of being implemented in the financial year 2012-13, it is necessary that sufficient funds are earmarked for this purpose. That is the reason why Rs.22 crores has been earmarked in the outcome budget in the year 2012-13. The fund will be fully utilised. The Master Service Agreement (MSA) has been signed between the Government of India and the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the implementation agency of the project on 30.12.2011. In addition to signing the Master Service Agreement (MSA) with the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the Ministry has set up Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by a Director level officer to the Government of India. A Steering Committee headed by Secretary, MOIA has also been constituted for monitoring the progress of the project. The Ministry is making all out efforts to implement the project in time.”

3.21 The Committee observe that in BE 2012-13, as against the proposed provision of Rs. 49.79 crores under Revenue Head the Ministry of Finance has agreed to an allocation of Rs. 38.10 crores only. As a consequence, out of the total cost of E-Migrate project of Rs. 92.67 crores, only Rs. 20.00 crores have been earmarked for the year 2012-13, which does not seem sufficient for timely implementation of the project. The Ministry has accepted that while distributing

the balance provision, the Budget Expenditure in many object Heads has been kept at the same or lower level even than the last year making it inadequate to meet the expenditure on the items under these heads. The Committee note that a Master Service Agreement (MSA) has been signed between the Government of India and the implementing agency of the project in December, 2011 and the e-Migrate project is scheduled to be completed within 58 weeks from the date of signing the agreement. The Committee are happy to note the Ministry has set up Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by a Director level officer to the Government of India and a Steering Committee headed by Secretary, MOIA has also been constituted for monitoring the progress of the project. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that MOIA should make all possible efforts to obtain the balance amount vital for implementation of the e-Migrate project by presenting the case based on actual progress and realistic projections at the RE stage so that implementation of this important project does not suffer due to paucity of funds. Similarly, all possible efforts should be made to obtain the required funds for other Object Heads at RE stage.

(Recommendation No. 3)

C. Capital Section

3.22 At BE stage during 2011-12 the capital outlay on Public works was Rs. 9.20 crores which was revised to Rs. 13.70 crores at RE stage and BE for 2012-13 is Rs. 20.00 Crores. This includes the allocation of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra and construction of new office premises for PoE. Whole amount of Rs. 20.00 crores has been allocated for PBK and Nil allocation has been made for construction/purchase of building of PGE/PoE offices.

(a). Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK)

3.23 Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra would be a centre to commemorate the achievements of the Indian Diaspora. The construction work of PBK has reportedly been started from 1st May 2011 and the project is likely to be completed within 24 months. It took too much time in getting the approval of PBK building plan. When asked about the efforts made by the Ministry in obtaining approval of PBK building plan from the concerned local authorities, the Ministry has stated in a written reply as under:-

“Concerted efforts were made to get the approval of PBK building plans by the local authorities namely - NDMC, Delhi Fire Service (DFS) and Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC). Briefly, the efforts made, inter-alia, include - getting the change in land use of the plots from "Residential (foreign Mission)" to "Public & Semi Public (Socio cultural)". The change of land use being the pre-requisite put by the NDMC, the Ministry made sustained efforts by protracted communications/discussions with the authorities concerned in the DDA and Ministry of Urban Development. The notification changing the land use was issued on 19.2.2009 by the M/o UD. Thereafter, follow up action was taken with the NDMC for vetting/approval of the drawings by writing d.o. letters/ reminders to the highest authorities; personal discussions with the Chairman, NDMC. NDMC vetted the plans on 10.11.2009 and forwarded to DFS and DUAC for comments/approval. Besides chasing the proposal with DFS and DUAC, the Ministry ensured timely submission of replies by the Architect NBCC to the objections raised by the authorities.”

3.24 While giving further details of the nature of the objection/queries raised by the local authorities for approval to PBK building plan and the time taken to resolve the objections, the Ministry stated as under:-

“There are three local authorities (NDMC, DFS and DUAC) involved in expediting the approvals. The objections raised by the agencies were broadly technical in nature. First, the plans were vetted by the NDMC. Thereafter, NDMC forwarded the plans to DFS. DFS, after approval the plans sent back to the NDMC, which in turn, sent them to the DUAC. As such, the objections were raised by the agencies at different points of time. The Ministry followed up with each authority concerned with replies to their objections and submission of revised drawings as and when required. The objections raised by the authorities are briefly given below:

Briefly, the NDMC sought i) Gazette notification for change of land use from residential to public-semi public; ii) estimated cost of the project for calculation of the cess; iii) NOC from CFO, Airport Authority of India (AAI) and DUAC; iv) detailed area calculation of basement, ground and upper floors; v) provisions for handicapped persons in plans such as gents toilet, ramp, railing, parking etc; vi) space structure proposed above third floor needs to be counted in FAR; vii) plans need corrections with reference to area chart, colouring, section, scale of plotting, dimensions, light & ventilation on all floors for toilets, research etc.

a) The objections/observations made by DFS include - marking of fire-fighting arrangements; marking of fire control room; compartmentalization of basement and upper floors; ventilation scheme with calculation and sprinkle scheme with design calculation is required, staircase shall be of 1.5m instead of 1.3m. etc.

b) The points raised by DUAC include: the architectural expressions of the building required changes to reflect the purpose; glass area to be reduced by 50%; internal arrangements of spaces and entry - exits to be re-organized; main entry to be re-structured; vehicular circulation be re-defined etc.

It is worthwhile mentioning that on receipt of objections/observations by the local authorities at different points of time, efforts were made to remove the objections/clarifying the position and wherever necessary, the drawings were revised and submitted. Further, after submission of the replies/revised drawings, constant follow up by the NBCC Architect was ensured. The objections/observations were resolved/complied with within reasonable time.”

3.25 On being asked to give the details of the contractor firm and rates on which the contract along with any terms and conditions of construction has been given to the contractor firm, the Ministry in a written reply stated as under:-

“The contracting firm whom the construction work has been awarded by the NBCC is - M/s. Marg Limited, Pusa Road, New Delhi. The total awarded value of the contract is Rs.60.88 crore. The broad terms and conditions stipulated by the NBCC, inter-alia, briefly include –

1. Contract Price: The total contract price is Rs. 60.88 crore. The price is inclusive of all taxes, duties and levies etc., including Sales Tax on works/turn over tax/Value Added Tax (VAT). It has been stipulated that the final agreed rates are firm till the completion of the project/till the works are taken over by the

clients. No revision of rate or any escalation shall be allowed on account of any increase. It has also been stipulated that the quantities of Non-Delhi Schedule of Rates (DSR) items shall not exceed the quantities.

2. Sales Tax on works contract and turnover tax: The award of work under the Contract is on “Works Contract Basis”. It has been stipulated that the contracting firm shall be responsible for payment of any tax levied on the transfer of property in goods involved in “Works Contract” Delhi Government Sales Tax Act and the rules made there-under including amendments, if any.
3. Time schedule: All the works shall be completed in 20 (twenty) months.
4. Mobilization Advance: Mobilization advance (10% of the contract value) shall be paid as per the relevant General Conditions of Contract (GCC) clause on the simple interest of 12% per annum.
5. Compensation for delay : The Contracting firm shall ensure work progress during execution of work strictly in accordance with the agreed work schedule. It has been stipulated that the contracting shall be liable to pay the penalty for delay of work as per the contract.
6. Quality Assurance: The Contracting firm shall comply with Quality Assurance and Inspection requirements. The work shall be carried out as per approved Quality Assurance Plan decided by NBCC. “

3.26 When asked about the status of construction of work of the PBK the Ministry submitted the following details:-

“The construction work of the PBK has been started from 1st May, 2011. As per the NBCC, 45% Reinforcement Cement Concrete (RCC) work of PBK has been completed. It is submitted that as against revised estimates of Rs.13.50 crore for PBK, an amount of Rs.13.49 crore has been released during 2011-12.

The competent authority has approved the construction of PBK at an estimated cost of Rs.79.19 crore. The target date for completion of PBK is 24 months. It is expected that the Project will be completed by April, 2013. As the work has been awarded to the contractor on firm rates (i.e. no escalation will be payable) and as such, there will no cost over run. Further, to monitor the progress of the Project in terms of physical & financial achievements, a Committee headed by Joint Secretary (FS) inter-alia comprising representatives of NBCC and Integrated Finance Division already exists. The Committee reviews the progress at the building site at least once in every month. Secretary, MOIA also visits the Project site to oversee the progress every fortnight.”

3.27 On being further asked about the progress made so far in the direction of setting Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawans in the States, the objectives of setting up of such Bhawans and the nature of participation to be made by the Central Government in those projects. The MOIA stated in a written reply as under:-

“The States have been advised to convey their comments on Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawan (PBB) to this Ministry. Comments from states are awaited. The Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawan in the States would provide under one roof, Migrate Resources Centres, Protector of Emigrants (POEs) offices counseling and predeparture orientation and space for state level Pravasi Associations.”

3.28 The Committee observe that the approval of building plan of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK) was delayed on one or the other pretext for a very long period and only after a repeated persuasion the construction work of PBK has now been awarded to the contractor on firm rates. The progress of the project, both physical and in financial terms is reviewed by a Committee

at least once in every month at the project site. The Committee now can expect that the work relating to PBK would be completed within the fixed time frame of 24 months. The Committee desire to be updated on the progress made in this regard on a regular basis.

The Committee are however, not satisfied with the efforts made by the Ministry regarding establishment of Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawans (PBB) in states. The Ministry has simply written to the States and awaiting replies. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Ministry should play proactive role and make concerted efforts in consultation with the State Governments at the high level so that the scheme to construct PBBs in the States takes a shape at the earliest.

(Recommendation No. 4)

(b) Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) Office

3.29 Operational matters relating to emigration, the provision of emigration services to emigrants and the enforcement of emigration Act, 1983 come under the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE). The PGE is the statutory Authority under the Emigration Act responsible for the welfare and protection of emigrants workers. He also oversees the nine field offices of the Protector of Emigrants situated at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Thiruvanthapuram, Cochin, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Kolkata and Jaipur.

3.30 When asked about progress made by the Ministry to purchase/construct new offices for PoEs in different states, Ministry submitted the following details:-

“It is stated that Ministry has made efforts to get office space for eight POE offices in government owned buildings. The ninth POE office at Jaipur has been inaugurated on 07.01.2012, which is in a building

owned by the State Government. On 31.08.2011, the POE, Trivandrum also got office space in a newly constructed building of the Department of NORKA, Government of Kerala.

It is stated that the POE offices at Chennai, Hyderabad and Jaipur are already in State Government owned buildings taken on rent. Only the POE offices at Mumbai and Cochin are located in private buildings. It is stated that in December, 2011 the matter was taken up by the Hon'ble Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala for providing place for purpose of own office building at Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Cochin.”

3.31 The process of emigration clearance is currently being done through Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) and all these Offices are functioning from rented premises. When asked about the justification for the approach being adopted by the Ministry on such an important issue of purchasing land and getting space for old as well as new PoE office without any budget, the Ministry submitted a vague reply as under:-

“Generally for opening of a new POE office in a State, the accommodation etc. are made available by the State Govt. The matter has been taken up with the State Govt.”

3.32 When the Committee asked about the efforts made so far by the Ministry to purchase land/construct buildings for the new PoE Offices to avoid huge rental outgo, the Ministry in its reply has stated as under:-

“The new office at Jaipur has already been opened and started functioning. As regards, POE offices in Rae Bareli and Guwahati, letters have been sent to the State Govts. Based on their reply, the opening of new offices will be pursued.”

3.33 On being further enquired about the estimated cost for establishing these new offices and whether sufficient budget allocation has been made for this purpose, the Ministry in its written reply stated:-

“For establishing new POE office, recurring cost will be around Rs. 40 lakh per annum apart from one time cost of Rs. 20 lakh for purchase of computers etc. No specific budget allocation has been made. Additional allocation will be sought at the time of RE.”

3.34 When asked about the staff requirement and availability of staff in new PoE offices, the MOIA submitted as under:-

“The following posts have been sanctioned for the new POE offices:

1. Jaipur – POE (US level)-1, Assistant-1, UDC-1
2. Rae Bareli - POE (US level)-1, Assistant-1, UDC-1
3. Guwahati - POE (SO level)- 1, Assistant-1

The posts will be filled up by calling applications from the Ministries/Departments. A circular has already been issued.”

3.35 When asked about the details of the sanctioned staff strength, present strength in existing PoE offices the Ministry submitted the following details:-

<u>Vacancy Position</u>			
Staff	Sanctioned Strength	Present Staff Strength	Post Vacant
<i><u>POE, Mumbai</u></i>			
POE (Director)	1	1	0
POE-II	3	1	2

Assistant	3	1	2
UDC	7	5	2
LDC	8	2	6
Group D	9	9	0
Total	31	19	12
<u>POE, Delhi</u>			
POE (DS)	1	1	0
POE-II (SO)	1	1	0
Assistant	2	1	1
UDC	2	1	1
Group D	5	4	1
Total	11	8	3
<u>POE, Chennai</u>			
POE (DS)	1	1	0
POE-II (SO)	1	0	1
Assistant	1	0	1
UDC	3	0	3
LDC	2	0	2
Group D	2	2	0
Total	10	3	7
<u>POE, Hyderabad</u>			
POE-I (US)	1	1	0
Assistant	1	1	0

UDC	1	1	0
Total	3	3	0
<u>POE, Trivandrum</u>			
POE-I(US)	1	1	0
Assistant	1	1	0
UDC	1	0	1
LDC	2	0	2
Group D	3	3	0
Total	8	5	3
<u>POE, Cochin</u>			
POE-II(SO)	1	1	0
Assistant	1	1	0
UDC	2	2	0
LDC	2	0	2
Group D	3	3	0
Total	9	7	2
<u>POE, Kolkata</u>			
POE-II(SO)	1	1	0
LDC	1	0	1
Group D	1	1	0
Total	3	2	1
<u>POE, Chandigarh</u>			
POE-II(SO)	1	1	0
Assistant	1	0	1
LDC	1	0	1

Total	3	1	2
<i>POE, Jaipur</i>			
POE(US)	1	0	1
Assistant	1	1	0
Group D	1	0	1
Total	3	1	2

3.36 The Committee observe that the Ministry has made some efforts to get land or office space for existing PoE offices in Government owned buildings. PoE offices at Chennai, Hyderabad and Jaipur are rented in a building owned by the State Governments. PoE offices at Mumbai and Cochin are still working in private buildings. The Committee are, however, pained to learn that even after a lapse of several months, the Ministry has not received any proper response from State Governments or Urban Development Ministry except in one case where for PoE office at Thiruvananthapuram, they have succeeded in getting office accommodation. In this context, the Committee would also like to remind the Ministry about the suggestion given by them during on-the-spot visit of PoE Offices, wherein the Ministry was asked to explore the possibilities to shift/place the PoE offices either in the Airport premises or any nearby places to the Airport for the benefit of emigrant workers. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter should not be delayed further and should be taken up sincerely at the level of Minister of Civil Aviation/Urban Development Minister or concerned Chief Ministers to finalize the proposal of land or space to accommodate the remaining PoE Offices on priority basis.

(Recommendation No. 5)

3.37. The Committee express their concern over the lack of seriousness shown by the Ministry by not making any allocation of even single rupee for construction/purchase of buildings of PoE offices during the year 2012-13. Surprisingly, no fund has been kept to establish the three new PoE offices at Jaipur, Rai Barieli and Guwahati. The Committee take a serious view to note that on one side, the Ministry has stated that they are making all possible efforts to purchase space or accommodate existing PoE offices in Government buildings and they are also committed to establish three new PoE offices during the current year itself but on the other side, there is no Budgetary provision for that purpose. The Committee desire that the Ministry should make all sincere efforts to show their commitment to complete the work relating to establishment of the PoE offices at the earliest and provide sufficient fund for that purpose at RE stage.

The Committee also observe that a significant number of Posts are vacant in all the existing eight PoE offices and the three new PoE offices also require staff. Though, applications have been called from Ministries through circulars but it seems that there is very poor response. The Committee, therefore, desire that if there is no proper response from the employees of other Ministries in joining PoE offices, the Ministry should try other options to fill up the vacancies in PoEs in the shortest possible time so that the emigrant workers do not face more difficulty. The Committee also desire that the new PoE offices should also be provided with the staff required to handle work load and smooth functioning of these offices and the Ministry should explore the possibilities of opening new PoE Offices at places like Dehradun to cater to the needs of the people residing at difficult hilly areas.

(Recommendation No. 6)

CHAPTER - IV

ASSESSMENT OF SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

Besides, dealing with all matters relating to PIOs and NRIs, the Ministry is engaged in several initiatives with Overseas Indians in the promotion of trade and investment, emigration, education, culture, health, and science & technology, among other areas. Given the region and country specific ethos and expectations of the Diaspora, the Ministry has policies, programmes and schemes that seek to meet the varied expectations and needs of the diverse Overseas Indian community.

P. Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme and census of Overseas

Indians

4.2 Keeping in view the Government's deep commitment in engaging PIOs with the land of their ancestors in a mutually beneficial relationship, the OCI Scheme was launched in August 2005 by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955. The OCI Scheme is operated by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Scheme provides for registration of all PIOs as 'Overseas Citizens of India', provided they were citizens of India on or after January 26, 1950 or were eligible to become citizens of India on January 26, 1950 and who are citizens of other countries, except Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Scheme provides for the issue of OCI documents, consisting of an OCI registration certificate and a Universal Visa Sticker to PIOs. The Scheme has been operational since

January 2006 and as of February 14, 2012, a total number of 10,29,131 PIOs have been registered as OCIs. A registered Overseas Citizen of India is granted multiple entry, multi-purpose, life-long visa for visiting India, and is exempted from registration with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for any length of stay in India.

Similarly, PIO cards are also being issued to the persons of Indian origin (PIOs). A person of Indian origin is one who at any time held an Indian passport or he or either of his parents or grand parents were born in or was permanently resident in India as defined in the Government of Indian Act, 1935 and other territories that become part of India thereafter provided neither was at any time a citizen of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka or who is a spouse of citizen of India or a person of Indian origin as mentioned above. PIOs have an exemption of registration for his/her stay on a single visit in India does not exceed 180 days. There is a proposal to merge OCI card scheme and PIO card scheme to provide all PIOs the same benefits that are given to OCIs.

4.3 An allocation of Rs. 1.45 crores has been made in BE 2012-13 of OCI scheme as compared to Rs. 1.00 crore in BE 2011-12.

4.4 On being asked whether the amount would be sufficient for which it has been allocated, the Ministry in its written reply has stated that:-

“The allocation of Rs. 1.45 crore is insufficient to handle the increased demand of OCI applications. Additional funds will be asked by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs at RE stage under this Head.”

4.5 On being further enquired about status of Bill of merger of OCI and PIO cards. The Ministry in its written reply has stated as under:-

“The Ministry of Home Affairs moved the bill for merger of PIO and OCI cards. The bill was considered by the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs who have made recommendations to MHA. MHA is in the process of incorporating those recommendations and also incorporate an amendment for grant of OCI card to the foreign spouse of an OCI card holder.”

4.6 In the same context, when the Committee wanted to know the exact number of Diaspora it was roughly said as 25 million in around one eighty nine countries. On the issue of census of Indian Diaspora, the Secretary, MOIA clarified the position in the following words:-

“There cannot be a census. But we have got four figures right now. We tried to get figures through our Embassies two years ago, when we got a figure of 21.6 million. The Ministry is taking a figure of 25 million. The GOPIO which is a global organisation yesterday told me that they are claiming it to be 40 million or four crore. We have read one international report which says it is 30 million. So, 25 million is the conservative figure.”

4.7 During the evidence, when the Committee wanted to know the initiatives taken by the Ministry and the methodology used to estimate the number of Diaspora, Secretary MOIA submitted as under:-

“As I have submitted, we have made an attempt in 2010 through our Embassies to survey country-wise. As my colleague was about to say, in some countries our population will come out. For instance, in Australia, it will come out. I believe, even in US census, this probably will come out because they are going back one generation. In every

country, it might not come. But we will study the methodology used by China and we will come back on this. But one attempt has been made.”

4.8 On the issue of base year considered for counting Indians, Secretary MOIA clarified the position as under:-

“The break up of 25 million figure might not be with us. But the break up of the 30 million figure is, 18 million people are PIOs, that is, people who went from 19th century onwards and 12 million are OCIs and NRIs. Actually, we have had this definition from the Indian Citizenship Act of 1935 and before and 1950 and after that. So, 18 million is before 1935 and 12 million is after 1950.”

4.9 The Committee note that as a result of different waves of migration driven by mercantilism, colonialism and now, globalization over 25 million Overseas Indians reside in around 189 countries of the world which is claimed to be the second largest Diaspora in the world. But, unlike countries like China, USA, etc. India has not been able to estimate the exact number of Indian Diaspora residing outside India. In Committee’s view for better functioning and appropriate policy framing of the newly created Ministry for Indian Diaspora, the first and foremost work is to take initiatives to estimate the actual number to Indians living outside India and preparation of a database in this regard. It is unfortunate to observe that the Ministry created for handling all the matters relating to Overseas Indian has no authentic data of its own and they have to depend upon the estimates projected in International documents. The Committee have been regularly asking the Ministry to take necessary initiatives in this regard but till date the Ministry has not come out with any concrete solution. The Committee are not convinced with the problems/difficulties shown by the Ministry based on the responses from Embassies/Missions/Posts or the hurdles of

rules of some countries. As recommended earlier, the work should be undertaken on priority basis appointing a task force or selecting the agencies having expertise in this field. The Committee also strongly recommend that necessary fund for this purpose should be obtained from the Finance Ministry at RE stage in view of importance and urgency of the matter.

(Recommendation No.7)

4.10. The Committee note that 10,29,131 number of OCI cards have been issued to the people of Indian origin by February, 2012. During the year 2011-12 there was a proposal of issuing 2.45 lakh OCI cards whereas, during the year 2012-13 only 2,30,000 more cards are proposed to be issued with a Budget of Rs. 1.45 crore. The Committee, therefore, desire that when there is every possibility of more demand of these cards after the proposed merger of OCI card and PIO card schemes, the target and outlay should be revised appropriately at RE stage so that maximum number of people can get the benefit during the year 2012-13. The Committee also find that there is a proposal to merge OCI card and POI card schemes. The Bill moved by the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard has already been examined by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs and Report has also been submitted. The Committee, therefore, desire that MOIA should take up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs so that suitably amended Bill incorporating the suggestions of the Committee on Home Affairs is brought before the Parliament at the earliest.

(Recommendation No. 8)

Q. Know India Programme (KIP)

4.11 The objective of the Ministry's "Know India Programme" is to help familiarize Indian Diaspora youth, in the age group of 18-26 years, with developments and achievements made by the country and bringing them closer to the land of their ancestors. KIP provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations and experiences and to develop closer bonds with the contemporary India. The Ministry has conducted 19 KIPs so far and a total of 591 Overseas Indian youth have participated in these programmes. The 19th KIP was held in partnership with the State of Rajasthan, from December 21, 2011 to January 10, 2012 in which 37 participants from 11 countries participated. The Allocation for Know India Programme has been raised from Rs. 1.60 crores to Rs. 5.00 crores in BE 2012-13. When asked about the upward revision, the MOIA stated in written reply as under:-

"The budgetary allocation for BE 2011-12 was Rs. 160 lakh whereas the budgetary allocation for 2012-13 is 5 crores. This is on account of two reasons. Firstly, the frequency of KIP is to be increased from the existing thrice a year to more. Secondly, Study India Programme (SIP) is to be launched during the current year and it will be held twice a year with the enhanced budgetary provision under budgetary head of KIP. The duration of SIP will be four weeks in comparison to three weeks durations of KIP."

4.12 When asked about the achievements of the programme, the Committee submitted the following details:-

“Nearly 600 overseas youths from nearly 40 countries have participated in this programme so far. After successful completion of Know India Programme, individual participants become Ambassadors of the culture, history, heritage and traditions of India in their country. It has helped the younger generation of overseas Indians to understand India better. It also has provided a forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to share their views, expectations, experience and bond with contemporary India with immense possibilities.”

4.13 In response to the specific query of the Committee about steps being taken by the Government to make KIP more useful in spreading the India’s impressive image on the global level, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs submitted the following details:-

“Know India Programme is a highly successful programme run by this Ministry and nineteen editions of KIP have attracted nearly 600 overseas participants of Indian origin. Various steps have been taken to make this programme more useful by giving wide publicity to this programme through Indian Missions/Posts abroad as well as through local media in the foreign countries to enable overseas Indian youths to apply for the same. KIP participants after successful completion of the programme are encouraged to inform other overseas youths of their country to participate in this programme. Recently Overseas India Youth Club (OIYC) have been launched in few countries like six Missions / Posts of HCI, Colombo, Sri Lanka, CGI, Melbourne, Australia, HCI, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, HCI, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, CGI, Durban, South Africa and HCI, Singapore with aim to network and bring all the overseas youths on one platform. “

4.14 When asked about the need for launching another similar programme called 'Study India programme (SIP)' in addition of existing Know India Programme, the Ministry stated in its written reply as under: -

“The SIP as envisaged is to be launched and implemented in partnership with select Indian Universities/Institutions etc. of repute. The Study India Programme is planned to be held twice a year i.e. during summer and winter vacations and it will have strength of 30 participants per SIP. The SIP is four weeks programme whereas Know India Programme (KIP) is of three week durations. The course with academic focus would include.

(a) **Academic content:** - which would facilitate understanding of contemporary India and its development, political and financial systems, economic, social and administrative structures;

(b) **Cultural content:** - which would help the participants to understand the Indian experience with exposure to Indian mythology, history, arts, handicrafts, dance, music, cuisine, languages and by interaction with Indian students.

(c) **Visits:** - which will be organized to different institutions and industries of importance as also rural visit to allow the participants to gain first hand exposure to India.”

4.15 On being further asked about the other benefits of conducting such big programmes the Ministry further clarified as under:-

“Such programmes provide a forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to bond with contemporary India in real terms and also share their views, expectations, and experiences in the land of their ancestral country with contemporary India. Visit to different states give them opportunity of watching an experiencing regional and folk art culture, music and different expressions of the

glorious heritage of India. It will help the younger generation of overseas Indians to understand India better and to see different dimensions of Indian life and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication & information technology and culture. Individual participants will become Ambassador of the culture, history, heritage and traditions of India in their country. The long term benefit is to link India with their Indian Youth Diaspora through this programme.”

4.16 When asked whether Ministry conducts or pursue any follow up action after conducting Know India Programme (KIP), the MOIA submitted following details:-

“Recently, Ministry conducted a study report on ‘Impact Assessment Study on Know India Programme’ through Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This study has taken support of analysis statistical data and feedback in order to gauge how the KIP programme has evolved over the years and exploring the possibilities to improve the quality of the programme. The recommendation for improvement is focused on five areas like (a) pre-arrival (b) registration (c) arrival and departure assistance (d) programme scheduling (e) infrastructure and services and (f) programme content. The Ministry has accepted the above study and is taking due care of the suggested recommendations.”

4.17 The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry is organizing ‘Know India Programme’ (KIP) with the aim of creating awareness about the phenomenal transformation taking place in India and the country’s progress from just a destination for culture, heritage and art to an emerging powerhouse in the global economic system. The Committee also observe that the Ministry propose to launch another programme called ‘Study India Programme’ (SIP) in addition to ‘Know India Programme’ (KIP). SIP will be held twice a year with the enhanced

Budgetary provision under the budgetary head of know India Programme (KIP). The duration of SIP will be four weeks in comparison to three weeks of KIP. No doubt, these programmes provide a forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to bond with contemporary India in real terms and also share their views, expectations and experiences in their ancestral country. The Committee also feel that the participants of the KIP and SIP, apart from the visit programme and study modules, may be entrusted with and educated about all the schemes and programmes of the Ministry and the initiatives taken by the Ministry with respect to Overseas Indians, PIOs and NRIs for a multiplying effect on the Overseas Indians in the International scenario.

(Recommendation No. 9)

4.18. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry has conducted a study report on 'Impact Study on Know India Programme' through CII for analysis of performance of the programme and is exploring the possibilities to improve the quality of the programme. The Committee observe that recommendations of this study suggests an improvement in all the areas of the programmes viz pre-arrival, registration, arrival and departure assistance, programme scheduling, infrastructure and services and programme content also. The Committee, therefore, desire that these suggestions should be implemented from the next programme itself. The Committee also desire that the participants should not be restricted with the visit of only one participating State associated with a particular programme rather, they should be given an opportunity to take a view of diverse and heterogeneous Indian community representing different regions languages, cultures and faiths of present India.

(Recommendation No. 10)

R. Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)

4.19 A scheme called 'Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)' was launched in the academic year 2006-07. Under the scheme, 100 scholarships worth up to US\$5,000 per annum are granted to PIO and NRI students for undergraduate courses in Engineering/ Technology, Humanities/Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry etc. The scheme is implemented by Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed.CIL), a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD). The scheme is open to NRIs/PIOs/OCIs from 40 countries with a substantial Indian Diaspora population. A total number of 468 candidates have availed of the scholarship since its inception. Following a review of the SPDC scheme, it has been decided to do away with the Common Entrance Test (CET) for selecting PIO/OCI and NRI students for the scholarships. Applications from students who meet the eligibility criteria are evaluated and shortlisted by a committee consisting of officers from the Ministry of HRD, Ed.CIL and MOIA.

Submitting the reasons of lower allocation of Rs. 5.00 crores in BE 2012-13 the justification for doing away with the Common Entrance Test for selection of students alongwith the criteria for this selection for the scholarship. The Ministry has replied as under:-

"The Selection process is stated below:

A Merit List is drawn up on the basis of marks obtained by all the eligible candidates in +2 (or equivalent) exam in the following manner:

- The Merit/Priority of candidates is based on the aggregate marks obtained in all the subjects of qualifying exam (+2 or equivalent).
- In the case of 2 or more candidates getting the same aggregate % of marks, the Merit/Priority will be decided by considering their marks in English.

- A student scoring higher marks on the above criteria have higher priority as compared to one scoring less marks.
- In rare cases, where two or more applicants have a tie on the basis of above criteria, the Merit/Priority is decided on the basis of date of birth [*As per Christian Era*] of the student. The senior student is preferred to the younger.
- In case of any further tie, EdCIL recommend the criteria as appropriate to the situation.
- In case, a candidate has passed from an Examining Body which award only Grades and does not disclose marks obtained by them, the candidate is required to submit the Range of the Grades adopted by the concerned Board/Examining Body and the Merit/Priority in such cases, would be decided on the basis of average/mean of the Range of the Grade scored by the candidate in each subject.

(b) The candidate must have secured a minimum of 60% aggregate marks or equivalent grades in aggregate of all the subjects in the qualifying examination.

(c) The Registration is done on Receipt of APPLICATION FORM (Downloadable from EdCIL's websites) along with the required documents latest by 10th June of the year of admission at EdCIL.

(d) Short-listing and selection process is done on the performance of the candidate in the qualifying examination which decides the eligibility to apply for the Scholarship Scheme. The candidates selected, on the basis of (i) their performance in the qualifying examination and (ii) fulfillment of the eligibility criterion are admitted to the scholarship scheme and shall thereupon be eligible for assistance as per the scheme.

With the result the review of SPDC scheme, it was decided to do away with the "Common Entrance Test (CET)" for selecting PIO and NRI students for the award of scholarship. It was very difficult to conduct

“Common Entrance Test (CET)” examination at a time in 40 different select countries due to time difference.

The BE 2010-11 for SPDC was Rs. 538 lakhs in comparison to Rs. 544 lakhs for the BE 2011-12. It was reduced on account of lack of timely submission of bills by EdCIL. During the current year, all the allocated fund of Rs. 5 crores has been utilized fully.”

4.20. When specifically asked whether the objective of scheme viz to deepen the relationship with Indian Diaspora and providing an opportunity for the youth among the Overseas Indians has been realized, the MOIA replied in written as under:-

“Through SPDC scheme, the relation between Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and Person of Indian Origin (PIOs) and their ancestral country India is becoming strengthened through the channel of quality education in India. This is also spreading the image branding of the academic repute of the educational institutions of India in different parts of the world. Under this scheme, over 468 PIO/NRI students have benefited since inception & 100 students have been selected in the current batch.”

About the number of applications received, the Ministry submitted following details:

“After proactive promotion of SPDC schemes in identified 40 countries, we have received 168 applications for the 2011-2012 and 175 applications for the year 2010-2011 batch.”

4.21 In response to the specific query to know the reasons for not selecting more students and keeping the number at 100 for the last several years, the MOIA submitted the following facts in a written reply:-

“The budgetary allocation for SPDC is the guiding factor for giving the scholarship to 100 students only. In recent years on account hike in fees of different courses, even the present budgetary allocation for SPDC is not being felt adequate.”

4.22. The Committee note that with an objective to make higher education in India accessible to the children of overseas Indians and publicize India as an education hub, the Ministry under the 'Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)' has been providing 100 scholarships every year for undergraduate courses. The Committee also note that the Ministry has recently increased the scholarship amount from US \$ 3600 per student per annum to US \$ 5000 but has kept the number of scholarships at the level of 100 for the last several years. The Committee are more surprised to note that the allocation for this scheme under BE 2012-13 has been reduced to Rs. 5 crores from the allocation of Rs. 5.44 crores in BE 2011-12. The scholarship amount has thus been increased but the allocation has been reduced to a lower level. This year 168 students have submitted applications for the year 2011-12 and 175 applications have been received for 2010-11 batch. This shows that more students have been showing their interest in getting education in India and than the number of scholarships being offered after the revision in scholarship amount the number of aspirants will certainly increase. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should appropriately increase the number of scholarships as well as the allocation at RE stage so that the interested students may be provided with maximum number of scholarships to study in India under the Scheme.

(Recommendation No. 11)

S. Indian Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI).

4.23 The India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) is a not-for-profit trust established by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to provide the vast Overseas Indian community a credible institutional avenue to engage in philanthropy and social entrepreneurship to help advance India's social development. The Foundation has a Board of Governors, comprising eminent Indians and distinguished Overseas Indians.

4.24 When asked as to how IDF-OI would channelize Overseas Indian philanthropic reasons into social sector and how would the Foundation establish and maintain a social capital and Philanthropy Network alongwith the benefits to the Overseas Community from the IDF-OI.

“India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) is a not-for-profit trust established by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India, to provide the vast Overseas Indian community a credible institutional avenue to engage in philanthropy and social entrepreneurship towards India's social development.

IDF-OI is not just about money. It aims to provide a transparent and effective platform for volunteering, sharing of knowledge, skills, expertise and social entrepreneurship along with contributions.

IDF-OI is being registered as a not-for-profit charity in the US, Canada, Europe (UK and Germany), Gulf and APAC region (Australia and New Zealand) which will be organically linked to IDF-OI, India. IDF proposes to kick start its Outreach programmes in US, Canada, Australia & Gulf by mid 2012.

At the backend, IDF-OI will partner with international, national and state level NGOs as well as government institutions like Panchayati Raj for effective implementation.

IDF-OI is centered on the theme of **‘Causes, Champions, Change’**.

- Identifying challenges in India
- Talking about IDF-OI and its work
- Showcasing ‘Champions’ - Inspirational/motivational stories of Diaspora philanthropists in India
- Knowledge partner (NGO) showcasing

The approach is to highlight gap areas across different regions/states where there is a need for engagement with the global Indians to act via both funds and knowledge transfer, while enthusing confidence in IDF as an organization that selects trusted partners in the area of “engaged philanthropy”. Since, Diaspora engagement with India has emotional overtures with regional focus, we propose focusing on diverse challenges that are being faced by different regions, across various states in India. This will serve as an educative literature for most users in the preliminary stages of research who are scouting for a good cause back home.

Profile champions and their success stories/their struggles/how they overcame odds/their impact, sharing experiences to serve as an inspiration for others. This will lend credibility to IDF-OI and inspire prospective pledge makers. At the onset, we will cover the broad areas and growth trends in philanthropy in India, India’s philanthropy ecosystem, new models, interesting work by different foundations/trusts & their social impact, key philanthropic events etc.

IDF-OI will also ensure credibility by closely reporting its activities and partnership with its associates.

The main benefits that the Overseas Community will avail from IDF-OI are as follows:

- Overseas Indians will not have to file for FCRA as IDF-OI is exempt from the provisions of the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) under Section 31 of the Act.
- Every rupee of donor contribution will go towards the specific project/cause. The trust will not charge any administrative/execution cost from contributions.
- IDF-OI will facilitate transfer of funds either directly to the NGO/ project/ cause of choice located within India or route it through IDF-OI to projects in specific areas of interest. The Trust provides flexibility of cause, geography and the manner of engagement.
- IDF-OI encourages retail contributions. So, the majority of ‘small’ donors will have a credible, FCRA exempt avenue to engage in philanthropy.”

4.25 The Committee observed that the foundation will function through NGOs and wanted to know about the preventive measures being taken in selection of honest and effective NGOs and monitoring the implementation using those funds. MOIA submitted the following written reply:-

“IDF-OI is in the process of short listing recognized and credible International, national and state-level NGO’s with an established track record of implementing philanthropic projects in Health Care, Education, Self Help Groups for women and sustainable lively hood. An Open Call for Proposal from such NGO’s has been finalised. The short listing will be done on the basis of a Credibility Assessment Framework. The Norms stated are basic standards of governance that all voluntary organizations should follow. It is mandatory for all backend partners of IDF-OI to comply with the Norms. They include the following elements: -

- Identity
- Vision, Aims / Objectives and Achievements
- Governance
- Operations
- Accountability and Transparency

Further to the initial credibility assessment, there will be field trips by IDF-OI official to the actual project sites for physical verification.

For monitoring of investment/programmes organized through IDF-OI funds, the following are the norms:

Reporting

- Regular reports on progress, use of funds including stories of beneficiaries, impact etc.
- Donors' feedback ratings on the reports
- Donor management tools and analytics information will be provided to NGOs to help them understand stakeholder expectations, improve reporting and overall communication
- Submit a Fund Utilization Certificate for funds received in the financial year, through IDF-OI, by December of each year.

Accountability

- Signed audited statements are available (at least for the last financial year): balance sheet, income and expenditure statement, receipts and payments account, schedules to these, notes on accounts and the statutory auditor's report.
- Statement of accounts indicates whether constructed on a cash basis (account for expenses and income at the time of actual payment and receipt) or accrual basis (at the time of earning or incurring).
- There are no serious adverse notes on any material point.
- There are no material transactions involving conflict of interest between a Board or staff member and the organisation.

Transparency

- The organisation's Annual Report is distributed and communicated to the community and others and is made available on request every year, within eight months of the end of the organisation's financial year.
- The Annual Report contains information on the Board members' names, position in the Board, remuneration or reimbursement, objectives and description of main activities of the organisation, a review of the progress and results achieved in the year and should contain brief financial details."

Project info: Programmatic efforts and impact

- Detailed project descriptions and logic models
- Monthly and/or quarterly updates and project reports
- Monitoring and evaluation studies and reports
- Impact Report showing that all funds routed through IDF-OI pages for your organization have been utilized only towards the case it was donated for.

4.26 When Asked about the type of participation of contributions in the implementation process, MOIA replied as under:-

“Overseas Indians who are interested in engaging in philanthropic work in India can choose the sector, geography and the project that they would like to contribute to. IDF-OI will provide the facilitation. Besides contributing funding support, overseas Indians can also contribute by volunteering, sharing of knowledge, skills, expertise and social entrepreneurship.

In case the funds are being routed to various projects, the donor will be a part of the project through regular reports and updates to him. Rigorous back-reporting system is going to be a core focus area for IDF-OI. Besides this, based on the donor’s convenience, he/she will also be taken for site visits to the project site.

In case of social entrepreneurship, contributors will transfer knowledge/skills related to innovative models that can be implemented at the community level for sustainability, in the key focus sectors for IDF-OI.”

4.27 The Committee observe that the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI), a not-for-profit scheme Chaired by the Minister of MOIA has been established to serve as a credible single window to lead Overseas Indian Philanthropy into India’s social development efforts and aims to provide a transparent and effective platform for volunteering, sharing knowledge, skills, expertise and social entrepreneurship alongwith contributions. It is being

registered as a not-for-profit charity in US, Canada, Europe (UK and Germany), Gulf and APAC region (Australia and New Zealand) that will be organically linked to IDF-OI India. The trust will partner with international, national and State level NGOs as well as Panchayati Raj institutions. The Committee observe that IDF-OI is in the process of short listing NGOs. The Committee, therefore, specifically caution that the NGOs only with an established track record of being genuine in implementing various schemes/projects funded by the Government of India should be selected for the purpose of implementation of the projects in a selfless manner in specific area of expertise. The selection of NGOs with credible and excellent track record only can inspire the faith and attract the contributors. The Committee are aware that a large number of Overseas Indians are interested to invest in social sector but they usually hesitate in doing so looking the ground reality and prevalent work culture in India. Therefore, there is a need to channelize Diaspora philanthropy. The Committee also desire that through wide publicity, the Trust should first convince and then persuade the prospects with an assurance of safe and genuine handling of their contributions in the country of their origin.

(Recommendation No. 12)

T. Pension Life Insurance Fund (PLIF)

4.28 On January 4, 2012, the Government approved a new scheme for Overseas Indian workers with ECR passports and who have emigrated overseas on a temporary employment/contract visa. The proposed scheme aims to encourage, enable and assist the Overseas Indian migrant workforce to voluntarily save for their return and resettlement (R&R) and for their old age. The scheme will also

provide a low-cost life insurance cover against natural death to target beneficiaries. The salient features of the scheme include: 1 Provision of a co-contribution benefit of Rs.1,000 per year for a period of five years by the Government on the lines of 'Swavalamban' to all Overseas Indian workers who voluntarily save in NPS-Lite; 1 Provision of a special additional pension co-contribution benefit of Rs.1,000 per year for a period of five years by the Government on the lines of Swavalamban to all Overseas Indian women workers who voluntarily save in the NPS-Lite; 1 Provision of an R&R co-contribution of up to Rs.1,000 per year for a period of five years by the Government to encourage Overseas Indian workers to voluntarily accumulate savings for their return and resettlement in India.

During the course of evidence while referring to the above mention Scheme the Secretary, MOIA has informed the Committee as under:-

“Pension and Life Insurance Fund should be demand driven. So, we did a demand survey of Indian workers, outside and other stake holders. We realised that they require three things. One is that they require some amount of pension when they are no longer in workable age. They also require some amount of money when they come back to India. There is some gap in employment and so, they need some money to tide over or to start a new business. They also need some insurance cover. So, Pension and Life Insurance Fund is a scheme which provides three things. It provides pension to the unskilled and semi-skilled workers. It provides return and resettlement relief to them and also insurance cover. It is based on the new pension scheme, the swavalamban model and a certain co-contribution is also given. We have proposed that if any Indian male worker saves from Rs. 1000 to Rs.12,000 in a year, the Government will give Rs.1000 for men and for women, it will be Rs.2000 because they work typically for a lower working duration. Similarly, for resettlement, if the worker

saves Rs. 4000, we will give Rs. 1000. This scheme applies for five years. We hope that by the time he comes back, he will get somewhere around Rs. 28,000 to RS. 30,000 to start with and once he is 60 years, he or she will get a pension. It is a function of how early and at what age you start contributing. I will supply the figures to you. This is a new scheme which we are going to launch.”

4.29 When asked further, as to, what were the objectives for launching the above mentioned scheme and, how does it differ from the existing insurance scheme, the Ministry, in its reply as stated:-

“The PLIF Scheme has the following objectives:

The objective of the PLIF Scheme is to encourage and enable overseas Indian workers to voluntarily save for their return and resettlement, save for their old age and obtain a life insurance cover.

Under the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), the insurance coverage is limited to a minimum period of 2 years or the actual period of employment whichever is longer and does not provide any life coverage to the workers. The insurance coverage is limited to payment in the event of accidental death or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad whereas the proposed PLIF Scheme has an insurance component which will give life insurance coverage to the overseas Indian workers during the period of insurance so that the workers and their families will have social security cover in case of death of the wage earner. PBBY is a mandatory scheme whereas PLIF is a voluntary scheme.

The PLIF Scheme is proposed to be launched on pilot basis in mid 2012. Scheme is proposed to be launched in all states and in all ECR countries later in 2012. It is estimated that around 10,000 workers will join the scheme during 2012-13. The expenses include co-contribution for pension and R&R, creating awareness and publicity, operation of Project Management Unit (PMU), training and consultation, etc. The amount will be fully utilized.”

4.30 When enquired, as to, how would the Ministry propose to encourage the migrant workers to save for their old age return and resettlement through this fund and what are the implementation plan for operationalising the new pension system, alongwith the benefits attached to the scheme, the Ministry in their reply has stated as under:-

“The Ministry encourages the migrant workers to save for their old age return and resettlement through this fund by making co-contribution in the following manner:

- A Government co-contribution of Rs.1000 per annum in line with Swavalamban platform for all PLIF subscribers who save between Rs.1000 and Rs.12000 per year in NPS-Lite;
- A special additional co-contribution of Rs.1000 per annum by MOIA for overseas Indian women workers who save between Rs.1000 and Rs.12000 per annum in NPS-Lite; and
- A special Return and Resettlement co-contribution of Rs.1000 by MOIA to overseas Indian workers who save Rs.4000 per annum towards Return and Resettlement.

A simple, integrated enrolment process is being established for PLIF that, complies with Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) and Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) “Know Your Customer” norms. A PFRDA regulated ‘Aggregator’ and Points of Presence (POPs) will be appointed by MOIA for subscriber education and enrolment and to deliver the proposed PLIF to overseas Indian workers. Workers will be able to open a PLIF account at an Enrolment Help-desk at all Protector of Emigrants (POE) offices in relevant States or at similar help-desks located at Indian Mission offices in each Emigration Check Required (ECR) country.

The following benefits are overseas Indian workers will get by enrolling under PLIF:

- Pension in old age through the PFRDA regulated NPS-Lite.
- Savings for Return and Resettlement (R&R) through a SEBI regulated mutual fund.
- A term life insurance cover of Rs.1,00,000 per year against natural death through an IRDA regulated life insurance company.”

4.31 The Committee are pleased to note that the Government has approved the proposal of setting up of a Pension and Life Insurance Fund (PLIF) for Overseas Indian Migrant workers in the ECR countries. The Scheme has been recently launched. Under the scheme, the Ministry encourages the migrant workers with limited work years abroad to save for their old age, return and resettle through this scheme by making voluntary co-contribution. The Committee, however, have an apprehension that under the provision of voluntary contribution unskilled or semi-skilled workers may refrain from contributing to this scheme of Government of India without being convinced with the modalities/procedures of reaching or getting back the maturing amount. Therefore, the Committee recommend that all the arrangements should be made for wide publicity. Awareness material containing information, frequently asked question (FAQ) in English, Hindi and in major Regional Languages relating to this scheme should be prepared and made available to the workers at the stage of emigration clearance with immediate effect. Simultaneously, our missions/posts abroad should be provided with the same material for spreading awareness amongst the workers already working Overseas. The Committee also desire that possibilities should be explored to make the contribution mandatory so that the objectives of the scheme are achieved in a better way and every worker’s life becomes happy and secure on return to India.

Recommendation No. 13)

CHAPTER - V

MISCELLANEOUS

X. Staff strength

A total staff strength of 195 employees has been sanctioned for the Ministry which include 118 staff in the Ministry and 77 staff in PoE offices but only 131 number of employees are holding actual positions.

When asked about the steps being taken to fill the vacant post in Ministry and PoE, MOIA submitted the following reply:-

“There is shortage of staff in the Ministry because the manpower has to be provided by the Cadre Authority i.e. Ministry of Home Affairs upto Section Officer, who are also facing a shortage of staff. The shortage of staff has affected the functioning of the Ministry/POE offices to some extent. However, against the vacant posts in the MOIA and the POEs, the staff has been appointed by outsourcing through a private agency against the vacant posts. To fill up the vacant posts in the Ministry the matter has been discussed with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Cadre Authority and they have provided 3 Assistants. The posts in POE offices are filled up by calling nominations from the different Ministries/Departments. Adequate numbers of application are not being received. As such there is also shortage of staff. As regards the filling of vacant posts in the POE offices, posts have again been circulated by calling nominations.”

5.2 The Committee are surprised to note that even after the repeated recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry has not been able to fill up the vacant posts in the Ministry and PoE offices. The Committee express their concern to note that since eight years of the establishment, the Ministry is still struggling to get its sanctioned strength of staff and functioning without its own cadre. The Ministry is also not able to get proper response

through the circular in other Ministries to fill the vacancies of PoE offices. In such situation, the vacancies in the existing PoEs and new PoE offices may not be filled up. The Committee once again reiterate that the matter relating to staff should be continuously pursued with the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of DOPT so that the issue of filling up the vacancies in the Ministry and PoE offices and creation of separate cadre is resolved at the earliest. The Ministry should also apprise the Committee about the steps being taken to obtain the additional staff for the proposed new PoE offices at Jaipur, Guwahati and Rai Bareilly.

(Recommendation No. 14)

Y. Libyan crisis

5.3 During the examination of Demands for Grants 2012-13 the Committee enquired the course of action adopted by the Ministry in times of any calamity, distress or political turmoil to rescue Overseas Indians with special reference to evacuation of Indians from Libya the Ministry during the course of evidence the Secretary, MOIA has replied as under:-

“The MEA gets into action on all those things that you mentioned. There are budget heads available for meeting those expenses. But there are certain areas where both of us need to work in tandem, for example, last year, we had the Libyan evacuation. It was decided that all the matters relating to things being done outside the country would be handled by MEA, including bringing them back to India. But once they are brought here, then, it will be taken over by MOIA for further action.”

5.4 When further enquired about the expenditure incurred on evacuation of Indians from Libya the Ministry in its written reply has stated as under:-

“For evacuation of Indians from Libya during the Libyan crisis, around Rs. 0.43 crore have been incurred. Additional allocation had been

sought to handle that emergent situation under the relevant object head.”

5.5 The Committee has been regularly discussing on several occasions about the coordination between MOIA and MEA. This becomes very important particularly in the emergencies like global natural calamities/political crisis etc. where Indian nationals are stranded and immediate and deliberate rescue and relief is required in such emergent situation. The Committee is aware that the MEA, comes into action through Missions/Posts and takes care of such immediate and emergent situations in the country where the crisis arises. But the Committee observe that almost nothing is left to be done by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs after bringing the Indian citizens in India as happened in the case of evacuation from Libya. The Ministry of Overseas Affairs is the nodal Ministry in the matters relating to NRIs and PIOs. The Committee, therefore, desire that the MOIA must work in close association with MEA while dealing with such situations. Since, evacuation like situation or need for assistance to people of Indian origin may arise in several other countries facing political crisis, some budget allocation for handling such situation should be kept with MOIA.

(Recommendation No. 15)

Z. NRI Investment

5.6 The Financial Services Division of the MOIA is focusing on many facets to improve and facilitate innovative investment practice and policy initiative for engaging 27 million strong Indian Diaspora for investing in India.

Explaining the achievement of Financial Services Division the Ministry in its written reply has stated as under:-

“Financial Services Division has set up Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre a not for profit trust in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry, India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians – a not for profit trust to provide a credible window for Overseas Indian philanthropy, Global Indian Network of Knowledge- an electronic platform that will connect people of Indian origin from a variety of disciplines, recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the national and sub-national levels in India and Prime Minister’s Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians to draw upon the experience and knowledge of eminent people of Indian origin in diverse fields from across the world. The FS Division is also responsible for running awareness cum publicity campaign to create wider awareness among the general public about the processes of legal immigration, cautioning people about illegal practices followed by fraudulent Recruiting Agencies, and, to provide information to emigrants/intending emigrants to ensure legal, safe and orderly migration.”

5.7 Furnishing the facilitating the advisory Services provided by the Financial Services Division the Ministry has its written reply stated as under

“The details of the facilitation services provided by FS Division are as under:

Information which supports NRIs/PIOs in their investment decision making;

Query addressal in areas of foreign investment consulting, regulatory approvals, market research, joint venture partner identification, project financing, accounting, taxation, legal, portfolio investments, NRI Banking and more;

Free connect with credible knowledge experts in India. However, the experts may charge from NRIs and PIOs for any handholding services involving an in- depth analysis of the query, intensive traveling etc.

Free registrations of NRIs/PIOs the OIFC business networking portal; and, Free participation in OIFC Diaspora Engagement Meets, Road Shows and Business Forums. “

5.8 The Committee observe that during August 1991 to Dec 2010 the NRI investment accounted for Rs. 29,347 crores. Keeping in mind the large Diaspora and sustainable growth of Indian economy despite the Global financial meltdown, the Committee look forward to a higher rate of healthy investments by NRIs in India. The Committee recommend that Financial Services Division of the Ministry must work on some targets on yearly basis to attract NRI investment in India using all opportunities including PBDs. For this purpose, MOIA should also consult and deliberate with all the concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies particularly with the Ministry of Commerce to chalk out a comprehensive plan to attract more and more investments in the fields where FDI is allowed by the Government. The Committee also desire that some more special incentives, tax benefits and exemptions, early start up of business and single window documentation facility should be provided to attract higher NRI investments.

(Recommendation No. 16)

**NEW DELHI
04 May, 2012
14 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)**

**ANANTH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on External Affairs**

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 3RD APRIL, 2012**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room G-074, Parliament Library, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Ananth Kumar - Chairman

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Inder Singh Namdhari
4. Shri Rajendrasinh Rana
5. Dr. Bholu Singh

Rajya Sabha

6. Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard,
7. Shri. H.K. Dua
8. Dr. K.P. Ramalingam
9. Dr. Bharatkumar B. Raut
10. Dr. Karan Singh
11. Shri Tarun Vijay

Secretariat

1. Shri K.D.Muley - Director
2. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Additional Director

Representative of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

SI. No. Name & Designation

1. Shri Parvez Dewan - Secretary (MOIA)
2. Shri K.N. Shrivastava - AS(FA)
3. Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari - JS (FS)
4. Shri Vinay Sahni - JS (DS)
5. Shri Roulkhumlien Buhri - PGE
6. Ms. Ranjana Kale - Economic Advisor
7. Shri Manish Prabhat - Director (Finance), MEA
8. Shri Shiv Ratan - Director (EP)
9. Shri K.C. Badhok - Director (ES)
10. Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan - Director (DS)

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to the sitting of the Committee. The Chairman then drew attention of the witnesses to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. Thereafter, the Committee 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 2012-13 and discussed some important points in detail, arising therefrom in detail. The Committee desired that the Ministry may furnish written replies within 7 days to the supplementary List of Points and also to all the points raised by the Members during oral evidence before the Committee.

4. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft Report on Action Taken by Govt. on the recommendations contained in the 9th Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2011-12. The Chairman invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Report. The Members suggested some minor modifications.

5. The Committee then adopted the draft Report and authorized the Chairman to finalize the Action Taken Report incorporating the suggestions made by the Members and present the same to Parliament.

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

The Committee then adjourned

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 4TH MAY, 2012**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1635 hrs. in Committee Room G-074, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ananth Kumar – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
4. Shri Zafar Ali Naqvi
5. Dr. Bhola Singh
6. Dr. Shashi Tharoor

RAJYA SABHA

7. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya
8. Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard
9. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut
10. Dr. Karan Singh
11. Shri Shivanand Tiwari
12. Shri Tarun Vijay

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri K. D. Muley - Director
2. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee took up for consideration the draft Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2012-13. The Chairman invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Report. The Members suggested some minor modifications. The Committee adopted the draft Report with minor modifications.

4. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalize the Report incorporating the suggestions made by the Members and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.