

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3220  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009  
VOTING RIGHTS FOR NRIS  
Sampath Shri Anirudhan;Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to give voting rights to Non-Resident Indians;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 2006. The Bill seeks to amend section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) to enable Indian citizens who are absent from their place of ordinary residence in India owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside the country, to get their names registered in the electoral rolls of the constituency of their place of ordinary residence in India to be able to cast their votes in the Parliamentary/State elections. The Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law & Justice on the 26th March, 2006 for examination and report. The Committee, while agreeing with the letter and spirit of the amendment, has recommended for bringing a comprehensive Bill on the subject.