

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:627  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013  
INVESTMENT BY NRIS  
Rana Shri Jagdish Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has made or proposes to make any request to NonResident Indians (NRIs) and the people of Indian origin to contribute their knowledge, expertise and funds in the infrastructure development in agriculture, energy and social sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the NRIs in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a & b): In order to facilitate Overseas Indians including NRIs and PIOs for economic engagement with India, an Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) has been set up in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). The Centre manages business networking portal, on which various inquiries and queries made by PIOs, NRIs are answered. OIFC also organises Diaspora engagement meets to engage overseas Indians to encourage them to engage with India in terms of investments, trade or contributions. To further facilitate the contributions of their knowledge and expertise, the Centre has set up Global India Network of knowledge (Global-INK). To enable charitable contributions India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) was established by this Ministry as a not for profit trust. The funds received from the Foundation are used in implementing projects in social sector.

(C): Ever since establishment of OIFC, queries of more than 11,953 overseas Indians have been answered, 17832 networked with each other, 46812 subscribed to e-Newsletter 'India Connect'. About 9,79,153 unique visitors from 170 countries used OIFC portal. In addition, about 7000 overseas Indians engaged with India through 26 OIFC diaspora engagement meets organised in various countries. Academicians, doctors, scholars, scientists have joined Global INK. IDF has till 31st March, 2013 attracted charitable funds amounting to Rs 23.50 lakhs.