

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3459  
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014  
PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS  
Mani Shri Jose K.;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas was held recently in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the declarations made and the decisions taken, if any;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is going to be set up?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. The 12th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi from 7th – 9th January, 2014. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports was the Partner Ministry for the PBD 2014.

The theme of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was 'Engaging Diaspora: Connecting Across Generations'.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the annual flagship event of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 8th January and the Hon'ble President delivered the Valedictory Address and conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) on 9th January.

PBD 2014 had special sessions on Youth on 7th January called the Youth PBD. Further, there were plenary sessions on India's Growth & Development and on India's Soft Power as well as a PBD Oration on 8th January. On 9th January there was a session on investment opportunities in States attended by Chief Ministers of Haryana, Gujarat, Kerala and Meghalaya, as well as separate parallel sessions held by participating States.

This was followed by concurrent sessions on Innovation & Technology, Issues of NRIs in the Gulf, Meeting of Diaspora Organisations, Making India the Hub of the Media and Entertainment Industry, and Healthcare Opportunities in India.

PBD Conventions provide the largest platform to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) for exchange of views and networking on matters of common interest. The PBD Convention is not a decision making forum. No declaration was made during the PBD-2014.

(c) and (d): The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra located at Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi will serve as a centre to commemorate and celebrate the contributions of the Indian Diaspora to the Global Society. The Kendra would over time become the focal point for interactions-social, cultural and economic with and between Overseas Indians. It will also serve as a research and documentation centre and host exhibitions. The Kendra will have Meeting/Lecture Rooms, Exhibition Space, Multipurpose Hall and related facilities.

The cost of the project is approximately 94 crore and the National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. (NBCC) is constructing the same. The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra is likely to be set up in the Financial Year 2014-15.