

**07**

**STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(2015-2016)**

**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS**

[Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report  
(16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of  
Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2014-15]

**SEVENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*November, 2015/KARTIKA, 1937 (Saka)*

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(16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of  
Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2014-15]

*Presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2015*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**  
*November, 2015/KARTIKA, 1937 (Saka*

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(2015-16)**

<b><u>Sl. No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Members</u></b>
1.	Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Chairperson
<b>Lok Sabha</b>	
2.	Shri Sirajuddin Ajmal
3.	Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
4.	Shri Ranjit Singh Brahmputra
5.	Shri Arka Keshari Deo
6.	Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi
7.	Shri Rahul Gandhi
8.	Shri Anant Kumar Hegde
9.	Smt. Raksha Khadse
10.	Shri Raghav Lakhnupal
11.	Shri Venakateswara Rao Magananti
12.	Shri Jose K. Mani
13.	Shri Chhedi Paswan
14.	Shri A. Anwhar Raajhaa
15.	Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram
16.	Shri Mohammad Salim
17.	Prof. (Dr.) Mamtaz Sanghamita
18.	Shri P.R. Senthilnathan
19.	Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma
20.	Smt. Supriya Sule
21.	Shri Sharad Tripathi
<b>Rajya Sabha</b>	
22.	Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
23.	Shri H.K. Dua
24.	Shri Chunibhai Kanjibhai Gohel
25.	Smt. Kanimozhi
26.	Shri Ram Kumar Kashyap
27.	Shri C.M. Ramesh
28.	Dr. Karan Singh
29.	Shri D. P. Tripathi
30.	Shri Pavan Kumar Varma
31.	Vacant

**SECRETARIAT**

1.	Shri Cyril John	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Dr. Ram Raj Rai	-	Director
3.	Smt. Jyochnamayi Sinha	-	Additional Director
4.	Shri Janmesh Singh	-	Committee Officer

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on External Affairs (2015-16) having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Seventh Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2014-15.

2. The Third Report was presented to the Parliament on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014. The Action Taken Replies of the Government on all the recommendations/observations contained in the Report were received on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Action Taken Report at their sitting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee have been given at Appendix-I to the Report.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) is given at Appendix-II.

**NEW DELHI**  
6<sup>th</sup> November, , 2015  
*15 Kartika, 1937 (Saka)*

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,**  
*Chairperson,*  
*Standing Committee on External Affairs*

## CHAPTER –I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their Third Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014.

2. The Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on all the observations/recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as follows: -

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>(i) Recommendations/Observations, which have been accepted by the Government.</b>   |                  |
| Recommendation Nos. 1,2,3,4,6,7,8 and 10   |                  |
|  | <b>Total-08</b>  |
| <b>(ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies.</b>                              |                  |
| NIL  |                  |
|  | <b>Total- 00</b> |
| <b>(iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration.</b> |                  |
| Recommendation No.11 and 12  |                  |
|  | <b>Total- 02</b> |
| <b>(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.</b>  |                  |
| Recommendation Nos 5,9, 13 and 14  |                  |
|  | <b>Total-04</b>  |

**3. The Committee desire that final replies to the comments contained in Chapter-I and observations/recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report should be furnished within three months of the presentation of this Report.**

4. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of their observations/recommendations.

**(Recommendation No. 1)**

**Utilization of funds by the Ministry**

5. The Committee had observed that the allocation made to the Ministry at BE stage for the year 2013-14 was Rs. 115.79 crore which was reduced to Rs.97.22 crore at RE stage and the final utilization was only Rs. 84.78 crore. This showed that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had once again failed in containing the trend of shortfall in utilization of allocation during 2013-14. The Committee were not convinced by the justification given by the Ministry that revision and reduction of Budget towards lower side at RE stage had been on account of the fact the expenditure on mass events like Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) and Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (RPBD) were incurred only in the second half of the year and the actual utilization on the first two quarters had been less. Surprisingly, the Committee had noted that the fund was not deducted under these heads during all these years but reduction was being done under other heads. Similarly, the Committee had also noted that the actual expenditure was also less than the Revised Estimates. The Committee had, however, found that after their continuous persuasion, the Ministry had taken some initiatives like timely release of Scholarship amount and money for Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK) and quarterly payment of rent etc. with a view to improve their quarterly expenditure. The Committee had, therefore, earnestly desired that the Ministry should regularly review and ensure timely release of funds for different purposes during 2014-15. The Committee had also reiterated that Ministry should resort to judicious internal allocation of funds quarterly and strictly monitor expenditure accordingly during each quarter, particularly when its funds were being reduced at RE stage on the basis of lower expenditure in the first two quarters of the financial year. The Committee were also of a strong opinion that without improving their current utilization pattern at each stage, the Ministry might not be able to obtain more funds at RE stage as per their requirements for various schemes/ programmes.

6. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-



"The recommendation is related to expenditure pattern under various heads in the MOIA. As regards various major schemes like PBD, the flagship event of the Ministry is held during 7-9 January every year, two editions of Know India Programmes (KIPs) and one edition of Study India Programme (SIP) coinciding with PBD are undertaken during the last quarter of the financial year and accordingly the expenditures are booked in the last quarter. The Committee's direction regarding monitoring of expenditure on a quarterly basis are noted for future guidance."

**7. While observing the reduction of allocation at RE stage and failure in spending even the reduced allocation by the Ministry during 2013-14, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry should improve this trend and ensure a timely release of funds for different purposes during 2014-15. The Committee had also reiterated that Ministry should resort to judicious internal allocation of funds quarterly and strictly monitor the expenditure. However, it is perplexing to note that the Ministry has once again submitted a stereotyped reply repeating the same excuses it had given in the past and mentioning that the Committee's directions have been noted for future guidance without giving the details of any concrete action taken on the Committee's recommendation. The Committee have reasons to believe that the Ministry would certainly be in a position to furnish the necessary data related to the utilization of funds during 2014-15 in a reply submitted in August, 2015. In absence of any such details, the Committee find it impossible to ascertain whether any credible steps have actually been taken by the Ministry in this regard or not. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should not give incomplete information using such phrases showing no commitment to improve the trend and it should take earnest efforts to utilize the allocated funds more evenly**

**by instituting quarter-wise monitoring mechanism. The Committee also desire to be informed about the outcome of the same.**

**(Recommendation No. 2)**

**e-Migrate Project**

8. The Committee were surprised to note that the e-Migrate Project had been considerably delayed due to lack of coordination/integration with the other related agencies and delay in data transfer. The Ministry was not even able to spend the allocation made for this project at BE stage. The project could not reach the 'Go live' level and the Ministry could only spend Rs. 0.43 crore during 2013-14. During 2014-15 under the IT head, a sum of Rs. 12.83 crore had been allocated and out of that approximately Rs. 8.00 crore were to be spent on the project which was sufficient for making payments to the implementing agency. The Committee had felt relieved to learn that after a long delay the project had come to a threshold level and all 10 PoE offices were providing emigration clearance through online e-Migrate system. The Committee had realized that since the e-Migrate rollout was at pilot stage, a large number of changes might be required on the basis of feedback received from recruiting agencies and PoE Offices. All those changes should be attended to without any delay and the programme should be made operational also for Indian Mission to allow foreign employers to apply to the Indian Missions for attestation on priority basis.

9. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"The Ministry has noted the concern of the Standing Committee regarding implementation of the e-Migrate project. The Ministry had considered various suggestions from the various stake holders of the process and evolved the project accordingly to make the process user friendly. The project was rolled out on 26.05.2014 in Delhi PoE. It was rolled out in all the PoEs in phases by 25/09/2014. During 26/05/2014 to 30/04/2015, 1,79,253 demand requests were cleared on e-Migrate system."

**10. The Committee had noted that after a long delay the e-Migrate project had come to a threshold level and emigration clearance was being done online by all the PoE Offices. The Committee, however, had recommended that necessary changes should be incorporated on priority in the newly introduced e-Migrate system in the light of suggestions and feedback**

received from various stakeholders. The Committee had also recommended to make the e-Migrate Project operational for Indian Missions also to allow foreign employers to apply to the Indian Missions for attestation on priority basis. The Committee are constrained to note that the Ministry has not furnished any information about the problems that have arisen, the suggestions received from the stakeholders and the changes introduced so far in the system and also about the progress made to integrate the e-Migrate system with the Missions/Posts. In the absence of such a provision in the e-Migrate project, important data related to the migrants is not readily available with the Missions/Posts and it further hinders incorporation of foreign employers with the e-Migrate Project. The Committee would, therefore, emphatically demand that the e-Migrate Project should be perfected by incorporating the suggestions based on feedback from the stakeholders and it should be made operational in all the Missions/Posts at the earliest. The status in this regard should be furnished to the Committee.

**(Recommendation No. 3)**

**International Conferences/Meetings**

11. The Committee had observed that the amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was allocated to the Ministry during the year 2013-14 under the sub-head 'International Conference/ Meetings', but only an amount Rs. 60.00 lakhs was spent by the Ministry in organizing only one conference during the year 2013-14 and Rs. 11.00 lakhs for entertainment/hospitality purposes. The Committee were also surprised to note that the Ministry did not feel the need for advance planning of Conference/Meetings or for analyzing the outcome by conducting any specific study to justify the amount spent vis-à-vis the objectives achieved by organizing such programmes. This showed that there is a lack of foresight and sensitivity on the part of the Ministry in understanding the dynamics of migration with a view to facilitating policy formulation in this regard. The Committee had, therefore, strongly recommended that the Ministry should draw up a full schedule of all the Seminars/ Conference to be organized during a financial year along with the proposed expenditure well in advance, keeping in view the

defined objectives and the international situation. The Committee had also desired that the Ministry should regularly review follow ups of such deliberations to ensure that the expenditure on each Seminar/ Conference is justified.

12. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"This recommendation is related to the International Seminars/Conferences and planning the proposed expenditure well in advance. The only international conference i.e. the Regional PBD was managed under the PBD head and not from the Budget head mentioned above. However, the Committees recommendation regarding drawing up a schedule of seminars/conferences to be organised during the financial year are noted for future guidance, alongwith the need to ensure that the expenditure on such Seminars/ Conferences is justified."

13. **The Committee are constrained to note that despite repeated recommendations by the Committee in the past the Ministry has not moved an inch in the direction of making an advance planning for various Conferences/Seminars with specific objectives to be organized during a particular year beyond stating that the recommendation of the Committee has been noted for future guidance. The Committee are further displeased to note that the Ministry could not organize even a single Conference/Seminar under this head during last year. Such a lackadaisical approach on the part of the Ministry is not justified in light of the huge mandate it is called upon to serve. The Committee would, therefore, strongly reinforce their earlier recommendation that the Ministry should draw up a detailed yearly schedule of Conferences/Seminars to be organized on various issues of concern and get the funds allocated and used accordingly.**

**(Recommendation No. 4)**

**Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra**

14. The Committee had observed that the project for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi had been delayed inordinately and was still running behind the last announced target date of completion in all respects before the celebration of PBD 2015. The Committee had been informed that the paucity of funds is the main reason for the project not being completed and it may be completed within 3-4 months after release of funds of Rs. 26.27 crore by the Finance Ministry. The Committee had, however, noted that after announcement by the former Hon'ble Prime Minister during PBD 2014 on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2014, that the PBK would be completed and become functional during 2015, the Ministry had made a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for Rs. 25.00 crore during 2013-14 but it was not agreed to. The Committee had, however, had a serious doubt about the sincerity with which the Ministry pursued the project because they found that the Ministry's demand for the Project at BE 2014-15 was Rs. 4 crore only against which the Ministry of Finance had made an allocation of Rs.15 crore at BE 2014-15. It was only at RE stage, the Ministry intended to submit a Demand of Rs. 21.27 crore. The Committee had, therefore, strongly urged that the Ministry should make sincere efforts for obtaining the requisite funds and completing the project timely as per the commitment made by Hon'ble Prime Minister before NRIs. The Committee had desired that they should be apprised of the efforts made by the Ministry in that regard and the outcome thereof. The Committee had also hoped that the Government would come out with a time-bound programme regarding setting up of Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawans in the States on the lines of PBK in New Delhi. They had however, desired that the project should be attractive to the States with a scope for continuous coordination with the Centre and not merely in the form of one time grant only.

15. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"It is clarified that the Ministry had sought Rs. 15.00 crore for BE 2014-15 and an amount of Rs. 15.00 crore was allocated by Ministry of Finance in the BE for 2014-15. However, the Ministry had requested for allocation of Rs. 4.00 crore in the BE for 2015-16 for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK), New Delhi anticipating that Ministry of Finance would allocate Rs. 21.27 crore demanded by the Ministry in the RE for 2014-15. The Ministry of Finance has allocated Rs. 5.00 crore only in the RE for 2014-15 and Rs. 12.00 crore in the BE for 2015-16 for PBK.

As recommended by the Standing Committee, the proposal for further allocation of funds will be followed vigorously with Ministry of Finance so that the project is completed during 2015.

The recommendation of Standing Committee on setting up of Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawans (PBBs) in the States has been noted and will be considered while finalizing the scheme of setting up of PBBs."

**16. The Committee had noted that on the one side, the paucity of funds was being quoted by the Ministry as the main reason for delay in completion of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra project in Delhi and on the other, the Ministry had informed in a written reply to supplementary list of points in clear terms that they had sought Rs. 4 crore for BE 2014-15 against which Rs. 15 crore was allocated in the Budget. Figures matched in individual, Total as well as Grand Total and this created a doubt in the mind of the Committee regarding Ministry's seriousness in completion of the PBK project. Now, the Ministry has clarified that they had sought Rs. 15 crore and the same was allocated. The Ministry should, therefore, be more careful in providing the facts and figures to the Committee in future because the Committee always base their recommendations on the inputs and figures provided by the Ministry.**

**The Ministry in its reply has now submitted that it will pursue the matter of allocation of funds with the Ministry of Finance more vigorously so that the project of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra is completed in 2015. The Ministry, however, has failed to furnish the details of the progress in the project and the exact remaining financial requirements after allocation of Rs. 5 crore at RE 2014-15 and Rs. 12 crore in BE 2015-16 through which they may be able to complete the project during 2015. The Committee would, therefore, desire that the Ministry should formulate a realistic projection for requirement of funds for the completion of Pravasi**

**Bhartiya Kendra during 2015 and the same should be cogently presented to the Finance Ministry. The Committee may be informed about the outcome of the efforts and the progress of the project.**

**The Committee are also constrained to note that the Ministry has only noted the suggestions of the Committee for setting up of Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawans (PBBs) in the States on the lines of PBK in Delhi but has not taken any steps as yet to finalize the scheme and chalk out the modalities. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate that the scheme for setting up of PBBs in various States should be finalized without any further delay in the light of suggestions made by the Committee for making the project attractive to the States with a scope for continuous coordination with the Centre and not in the form of one time grant only. The Committee should be apprised about the progress made in this direction.**

**(Recommendation No. 5)**

**Land/Building for PoE Offices**

17. The Committee had noted that in the name of making efforts, the Ministry had been writing letters to the State Governments or Ministry of Urban Development requesting them to provide suitable space for setting up of new Protector of Emigrants (PoE) Office at Rae Bareilly and Guwahati or for shifting of PoE offices at Cochin and Hyderabad, but with no results. They had only been able to shift the PoE Office, Thiruvananthpuram to a State Government Building and some work had been undertaken to modernize the PoE Offices at Mumbai and Kolkata. Therefore, under those circumstance the Committee did not approve the reasoning given by the Ministry wherein they had argued that in view of no positive response from the State Governments, no allocation has been made at BE stage for PoE Offices and if the need arose then the funds would be obtained through submission of Revised Estimates. In the Committee's view, such an approach by the Ministry defeated the very purpose of the budgetary exercise. If the proposals of establishment and shifting of PoE Offices were in progress, they could materialize at any point of time and then it might not be

feasible for funds to be arranged immediately. In case the necessary building or land could not be arranged, the allocated funds could be surrendered. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should take more concerted efforts to obtain space for the PoE Offices by taking it at the highest levels and simultaneously obtain requisite allocation at RE stage, which might be spent in remaining months of the financial year. Moreover, they should also make provision for sufficient funds in the Budgetary exercise for the next financial year for that purpose and apprise the Committee about the progress made in that regard.

18. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"It may be stated that the PoE Offices of Delhi, Kolkata and Chandigarh are in Central Govt. buildings. PoEs Hyderabad, Chennai, Trivandrum and Jaipur are in State Govt. buildings and PoEs Cochin, Mumbai and Rae Bareli are in private buildings.

The Ministry has taken up the issue of allotment of land for the PoE Offices in Mumbai, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai and Rai Bareli with the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India and concerned State Governments. Ministry of Urban Development has replied that the requirement of office space for POEs had been noted and would be considered along with other pending requests for GPOA as and when GPOA become available at these locations. Further response is awaited from the Ministry of Urban Development.

Ministry of Urban Development was requested to accede to approve the allotment of Govt. accommodation to the POE office, Cochin, in the premises where Regional Passport Office (RPO), Cochin is located. The Directorate of Estates, has informed that they had sought some clarification from Executive Engineer-cum-Estate Manager, Cochin Central Division, CPWD about the details of the space to be spared by RPO. POE(Kochi) has also reminded the Executive Engineer, CPWD Cochin for finalization of the proposal.

The matter of getting office space for the office of POE in Hyderabad at the premises of RPO, Hyderabad is being pursued.

Regarding opening of PoE Office at Guwahati, accommodation/space is yet to be made available by the State Government despite sending requests to Govt. of Assam a number of times.



It may be seen that the Ministry has constantly been making efforts for getting office space for the POE Offices in Govt. owned building with minimum rental outgo. The matter will be followed up earnestly.

Regarding allocation of funds, it may be stated that it is not known how much budgetary provision would be required if land/building is made available for establishment/shifting of new/existing PoE offices. Moreover, if any amount of funds are kept in BE and are surrendered at the end of the year due to non-availability of land/building, the Ministry have to provide clarification as to why the funds had been asked. The surrendering of funds may be seen as lack of proper planning on the part of the Ministry. Therefore, to avoid the surrendering of funds, funds are not being kept in BE. If at any time during the year, the land/buildings are made available, funds would be arranged by way of re-appropriation or seeking additional funds."

**19. The Committee had *inter-alia* recommended that the Ministry should make more concerted efforts to obtain space for the Protector of Emigrants (PoE) Offices and to make provision for sufficient funds in the Budget for the same. But the persuasion with the State Governments/Ministry of Urban Development has not produced any results. The Committee are, not convinced at all with the Ministry's reasoning that it is not procuring funds under the head in order to avoid the surrender of funds at a later stage. The Ministry has further added that surrendering of funds may be seen as lack of proper planning on the part of the Ministry. The arguments of the Ministry in this case sound unjustified in light of the fact that the Ministry has been consistently surrendering funds under various heads in the past. The Ministry on its own should not assume that it will not be in a position to procure the space and hence not to seek any funds under the head. Such a stand betrays a total lack of planning on the part of the Ministry. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should redouble its efforts to obtain land for PoE Offices in Mumbai, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai and Rae Bareli, allotment of Government accommodation to the PoE Cochin and Hyderabad Office in the premises of RPO, Cochin and RPO, Hyderabad, respectively and to obtain space for opening of PoE Office in Guwahati. The Ministry should**

**also ensure availability of sufficient budgetary allocation for the same so that the action starts immediately without any delay due to non-availability of funds.**

**(Recommendation No. 7)**

**Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana**

20. The Committee had noted that the Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Yojna (MGPSY) was launched in May 2012 and was already available for workers to subscribe across India and UAE. But the Ministry had not been able to achieve the targets despite making several efforts and only 383 workers against a target of 10,000 could be registered under the Scheme during 2013-14. The Ministry seemed to have lost hope and had reduced the allocation for the scheme from 7 crore during 2013-14 to 4 crore for 2014-15. The Committee, however, did not find any valid reason for failure of the scheme which was specially designed for welfare of Indian workers.

The Committee were convinced about the noble objectives of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Surkasha Yojna (MGPSY), a social security scheme for the unskilled and semi-skilled Overseas Indian Workers with ECR Passports, in order to help them to save for their return and resettlement in India, save for their pension and obtain complementary life insurance cover during the period of Overseas employment. The Committee had assumed that before launching the scheme, the Ministry must have studied the likely legal hurdles, particularly in the Gulf countries and that it was unlikely that the situation had changed significantly thereafter. In the Committee's view, the failure of the Scheme must have been on account of lack of adequate publicity amongst workers to convince them about the benefits, particularly in the uncertain conditions in the Gulf countries.

The Committee had, therefore, desired that before considering winding up of the scheme, the Ministry should conduct a publicity campaign vigorously in all Indian languages and organize more camps to educate and convince the workers to associate themselves with the scheme. It was also suggested that to overcome the strict laws in some ECR countries, they should adopt alternative ways to reach the workers, including through the e-Migrate project. In the Committee's view any consideration of closing such an important and welfare oriented scheme should be concluded only after exhausting all possible ways of making the scheme successful.

21. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"The Ministry has taken note of the concern of the Standing Committee. It may be stated that to evince the interest of the workers in the scheme, the Ministry had carried out the following publicity campaigns during 2014-15:

1. One News Paper advertisement was released on 9th January 2014 during PBD 2014
2. A 2-week publicity campaign was launched on the Television Media for the first time from 15th Aug 2014 till 28th Aug 2014. The advertisements were released on all major channels in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali and Punjabi languages.

The Ministry has already started the process to integrate the scheme with e-Migrate project. This will also help in reaching out to workers who are planning to go abroad and applying for emigration clearance through e-Migrate system. Various options to make the scheme successful would be examined before the option to close down the scheme is exercised."

**22. While noting the failure of Ministry in achieving the targets for registration of Overseas Indian workers under the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY), the Committee had recommended the Ministry to undertake a vigorous publicity campaign to educate and convince the workers to associate themselves with the scheme and also to adopt alternative ways to reach the workers including through e-Migrate project. However, the Committee find that in the name of publicity campaigns, only one newspaper advertisement was released during Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) and a two week television media campaign was organized in Hindi and some other regional languages. In the Committee's view, such a casual approach can never popularize the scheme among the emigrants. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate that an extensive publicity campaign in various regional languages extending throughout the year and special camps to educate and convince the workers to associate themselves with the scheme should be organized. Further, the Committee are informed that the Ministry has started the process to integrate the scheme with the e-Migrate project. However, no mention has been made about the results achieved so far and the time-frame fixed in this regard. Therefore, the Committee desire to be updated about the progress achieved in the**

**integration process and the success achieved in reaching out to migrants and the workers who are applying for emigration clearance.**

**(Recommendation No. 8)**

**Know India Programme (KIP)**

23. The Committee had observed that the Ministry had started an internship programme for diaspora youth with the objective of bringing the young Overseas Indians closer and to bond them with contemporary India. During the year 2013-14, four editions of the Know India Programme (KIP) were held, in which 127 participants took part. The Ministry proposed to organize 4 more programmes during the year 2014-15 for which a Budget of Rs. 4.5 crore had been allocated. The Committee had, however, observed that no separate allocation had been made for another programme called the Study Indian Programme (SIP) which was started with academic focus including academic contents, cultural contents and visits. The Ministry had not clarified whether the contents of SIP had been merged with KIP or not. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the programme might be further reviewed and modified as necessary to make it comprehensive, more attractive and broad based by incorporating the contents of Study India Programme also so that more and more participants from all parts of the world and of diverse backgrounds were attracted to participate in the Know India programme. The Committee had also desired that all recommendation of CII in this regard should be considered and implemented and a status report should be submitted to the Committee.

24. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"The Know India Programme (KIP), initially known as Internship Programme for Diaspora Youth (IPDY) was started from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2003 in Ministry of External Affairs. The IPDY was renamed as "Know India Programme" from December, 2006 when Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was formed as an independent Ministry.

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 bond closely with contemporary India. For each Know India Programme(KIP), upto 40 overseas youth participants are invited for the programme.

The Ministry has conducted 32 editions of KIPs so far and a total of 983 overseas Indian youth have participated in these programmes including 152 overseas participants in 5 (28<sup>th</sup> - 32<sup>nd</sup> KIP) editions of KIPs during 2014-15. The 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> KIP and KIP 32<sup>nd</sup> were conducted during PBD-2015 to provide a much needed exposure to Diaspora matters for the KIP participants. In every KIP the number of applications being received from overseas youths for KIPs are increasing.

Based on the feedback of the participants of KIP, CII had made recommendations on KIP regarding pre-arrival, registration, arrival and departure assistance, programme scheduling, infrastructure and services, programme contents etc. These recommendations of CII have been taken into consideration by the Ministry resulting in increased number of applications for every succeeding KIPs from willing overseas youths. The approved guidelines/ contents of each KIP consisting of details of programme schedule and various conditions are sent to all the Indian Missions/Posts well in advance and uploaded in the website of the Ministry to keep the willing participants about those and for their preparation accordingly.

The SIP enables Overseas Indian youth to undergo short term course in an Indian University to familiarize them with the history, heritage, art, culture, socio-political, economic developments etc. of India. The focus of the programme is on academic orientation and research.

So far three editions of SIPs have been conducted where a total of 41 overseas youth participated including 18 overseas Indian youths of 3<sup>rd</sup> SIP from 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 at the Symbiosis University, Pune, Maharashtra.

The expenditure for KIP and SIP is made from the Budget Head 2061- External Affairs (Major Head) Details Head 03.05 other Charges 03.05.50(OH), though these programmes are different in the content and duration.

The Ministry has so far not merged the KIP and SIP programme. The pros & cons of merging the two schemes are being examined and a final view, as to whether the two schemes shall be continued in their existing form, or should be merged shall soon be taken.

It may also be kindly noted that the Ministry has decided to increase the number of KIPs up to 18 programmes per year. The duration of each KIP will also be 25 days, as compared to 21 days for previous KIPs. The KIP schedule will also include interactions with university students, where the participants do the state leg of their visit."

25. The Committee are pleased to note that the Ministry has decided to increase the number of Know Indian Programmes (KIPs) to 18 programmes per year and duration of each programme from 21 days to 25 days, and the programme has been revised considering recommendations of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) based on feedback from participants. The Committee believe that it would certainly pave the way to make this flagship programme more attractive and broad based and would be instrumental in creating a more enduring image of India in the hearts and minds of the Diaspora youth. The Committee were made to understand that the Know India Programme (KIP) and the Study India Programme (SIP) are two different programmes of the Ministry with different content and duration though the expenditure for both is made from the common Budget Head. Now the Ministry has started to examine the pros & cons of merging the two schemes but a final view is yet to be taken. The Committee are of a considered opinion that a broad based unified programme like KIP organized for more and more Diaspora youth focusing on culture, academics, heritage, tourism and actual visits may produce better results. The Committee would, therefore, desire that a final decision should be taken by the Ministry in this regard at the earliest.

**(Recommendation No. 9)**

**Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)**

26. The Committee on the one hand had noted that under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) the Ministry in principle had decided to increase the number of scholarships from 100 to 200 and scholarship amount from \$ 4000 to \$ 5000 but on the other hand there was a steady decline in the number of applications from the Diaspora children since 2009-10. For 2014-15 only 190 applications had been received from the Diaspora children. Moreover, it also

created doubts about the seriousness of the Ministry as the Ministry had not enhanced the budget for the Scheme, rather only Rs. 8.56 crore had been allocated for 2014-15 as against the RE of Rs.8.83 crore for 2013-14. The Committee were, therefore, of the opinion the first of all it should analyze the reasons for the steady decline in the number of applications for scholarships offered under this scheme, including the standing and accreditation of the institutions and the type of courses offered to the students under the scheme. The Committee had once again urged the Ministry to expand the reach of the programme and include only the best institutions for admissions under the Scheme if it really intended that the students selected for such scholarship became brand ambassadors for India and its educational institutions and represent India globally as a sought-after educational hub. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry should also seek enhanced allocation for the increased number and amount of scholarship at the Revised Estimates stage.

27. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"The Ministry has examined the reasons for the decline in the number of applications under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) and the decline in application could be attributed to a number of factors which are outlined below:

(i) Amount of Scholarship:

Presently, the Institutional Economic Cost (IEC) with regards to NITs range from US\$ 7500- US\$8500 per year and the maximum scholarship allowed is US\$ 4000 only which is nearly half the IEC. This difference in scholarship amount and actual fees paid to Institutes may pose a financial overload on students opting to study in India, especially in NITs.

(ii) Number of Scholarship seats:

Since the number of scholarship seats is only 100, many students particularly those without high marks may not wish to apply presuming lesser chances of being shortlisted.

EdCIL were requested to incorporate institutions of national repute like JNU, DU, IITs and various IIMs under the scheme to accommodate the increased number of aspirants for undergraduate courses in Engineering, Science, Law, Management etc. It came to light that Institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, IITs and various IIMs have different criteria for admission, such as the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for IIT, Common Aptitude Test (CAT) for IIMs and also tests which university/institutions conduct on their own for admission at the entry level for undergraduate courses. Whereas, in the SPDC

scheme the merit list is prepared based on the scores obtained by the students in their qualifying examination, i.e., 12<sup>th</sup> class.

Hence, the placement of the NRI/PIO students in the above institutions through the SPDC Scheme would materialize only if the students qualify the respective entrance exams for admission to those institutes.

(iii) The matter regarding increase in the amount of scholarship from US\$ 4000 to US\$ 5000 per year and number of seats from 100 to 200 had been examined in MOIA. Order of the then HMOIA was taken for increasing the scholarship to US\$5000 per annum(subject to 75% of IEC cost or less) and the number of scholarships to 200 per year. Comments of MHRD were taken and comments of MEA & ICCR are awaited.

However, the Ministry is now considering modifying the SPDC Scheme to ensure that NRI/PIOs scholars are admitted to universities / colleges that are of a prescribed standard only, to ensure the quality of education being imparted. Scholarship in such cases could be given only to those NRI/PIO students who are able to get admission into these institutions. The modified Scheme would be given due publicity. Pending these changes to be made, fresh applications have not been invited for the current year.

The budgetary provision would be made based on the actual expenditure that is likely to be incurred once the changes as above have been implemented."

**28. The Committee in their recommendation had *inter-alia* asked the Ministry to analyze the reasons for the steady decline in the number of applications for scholarships offered under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC). The reasoning put forth by the Ministry includes the financial overload on students opting to study in India due to difference in scholarship amount and actual fees paid to institutes and availability of small number of scholarship seats. This calls for an expeditious decision to enhance the amount of scholarship. The Committee hope that a decision will be taken after obtaining comments from Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).**

**The Committee, however, note that the Ministry is now considering to modify the SPDC scheme itself so that the scholarship is disbursed to those NRI/PIO students only who are able to get admission into various institutions of a prescribed standard so as to ensure the quality of**



**education. The Committee are concerned that such a move would defeat the purpose of the scholarship programme and may not expand the reach of programme; rather, a very few Diaspora children would be able to get admission on the basis of competitive examinations of prime institutions and the outreach of the programme would be further reduced. Therefore, the Committee opine that apart from enhancing the scholarship amount, the Ministry should further keep the window open for reserving seats for NRI/PIO students in various educational institutions of national repute. This matter may be discussed with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) because facilitating NRI children getting education in such institutions will be mutually beneficial for them and for the country.**

**(Recommendation No. 11)**

**India Centre for Migration**

29. The Committee had taken note that the Indian Centre for Migration (ICM), New Delhi is the think tank of the Ministry regarding emerging opportunities in the international labour markets and for projecting India as a supplier of skilled, trained and qualified workers. The Committee had, however, found that the skill development project for potential migrants from North Eastern States was launched in 2011 with an objective of providing vocational training to 10,200 youth in hospitality, healthcare and education sectors. But only 1,443 youths had been trained so far under the project. They had also failed to spend the funds allocated for the ICM. The Committee were of an opinion that in the current scenario of emerging trends in labour migration, the Centre is positioned to play a pivotal role in shaping and defining India's migration flows. The need of the hour is to sufficiently augment the capacity of the Centre and therefore the Committee had desired that all the ongoing studies should be completed and expedited in a time bound manner along with the planning and implementation of the recommendations made in these reports. The Committee had wished to be informed accordingly about the initiatives taken to achieve the targets set for training the youth under the programmes launched by the Centre.

30. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

“Skill Development Initiative for Potential Migrants from the North-Eastern States of India”, is a pilot project implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) under an agreement between ICM and IOM.

1. A total of 3,400 youth were to be trained with either complete or partial funding support from the project. Other targets were: development of three International Vocational Qualifications (IVQs), establishment of Skills Training and Certification Resource Centre (STCRC), drafting of National Roll-out Plan, Vision Documents for Overseas Employment. 1,443 youth were trained and certified as per the IVQs developed exclusively for the purpose of the pilot project in the North-East. A total of 6,800 persons were to be trained in vocational model on self-financing basis without any financial support from the project. No progress was reported by International Organization for Migration (IOM) to ICM in this regard.

2. In February 2015, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the implementing agency of the project, was informed the project may be brought to a logical conclusion immediately in light of delay in achieving its deliverables.

3. ICM completed a labour market assessment of six EU countries and studied trends in international labour markets. In its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 22 May 2015 in New Delhi the Governing Council approved ICM's road map for 2015-16, which includes updating of information on labour market trends periodically and examining standard labour agreements with destination countries."

**31. The Committee in their recommendation had *inter-alia* argued that Indian Centre for Migration (ICM), a think tank of the Ministry regarding emerging opportunities in the international labour markets and for projecting India as a supplier of skilled, trained and qualified workers should sufficiently augment its capacity by expeditiously implementing the recommendations contained in the ongoing studies. But the Ministry has not mentioned anything about the road map prepared by them for training of the youth beyond a cursory mention of the outcome of the fifth meeting of the Centre's Governing Council. The Committee would, therefore, desire a status report on the functioning of ICM and reiterate that a road map for the expansion and upgradation of the Centre should be charted out at the earliest with a defined target and road map for training of youth and the Committee should be apprised about the progress at the action taken stage.**

**Further, the Committee are displeased to note that the Pilot Project on 'Skill Development Initiative for Potential Migrants from the North-Eastern States of India' has come to an unceremonious end due to want of proper progress by the International Organization for Migration (the implementing agency). It is disquieting for the Committee to note that the project had been allowed to come to an end without the Ministry even analyzing the causes of its failures and suggesting remedial measures to the implementing agency. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should analyze the reasons for the failure of the pilot project and should put them up before the Committee for scrutiny and further suggestions.**

**(Recommendation No. 12)**

**The Swarnapravas Yojna**

32. The Committee had observed that the Ministry has been given an outlay of Rs. 20 crore by the Planning Commission for the ambitious Swarnapravas Yojna for skill development of Indian youth. The Outlay for this scheme for 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan is Rs. 137 crore and during the 5 years 2.08 lakh youth are to be trained under the scheme. The Committee, therefore, had impressed upon the Ministry to take up the project with required seriousness, spend the allocation every year in a prudent way by setting desired targets and achieve those targets so that there was no underutilization of the allocated funds or failure in achieving the targets under the scheme.

The Committee had also recommended that the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) should be suitably empowered to look into various aspects of implementation of this Project. The Committee would further like to be apprised about the specific projects undertaken, the targets set for the youths to be trained during the year 2014-15 and the initiatives taken to achieve the targets under the Scheme. The Committee had also desired that there should be a mechanism for regular review to assess the effectiveness of the skills in fulfilling identified needs of the labour importing countries. The Committee had further desired that while identifying the centres for imparting such training,

preference should be given to the economically backward districts in various States across the Country.

33. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"All the recommendations of the Committee have been noted for guidance. The Ministry is taking urgent steps to implement the Scheme expeditiously."

34. **The Committee are aware that the Swarnapravas Yojana is the only scheme of the Ministry which is within the plan budget and it is an ambitious scheme during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan to train 2.08 lakh youth. However, the Committee are distressed to note that no real efforts have been undertaken by the Ministry to implement it and as on date it appears that the Scheme remains on paper only. The Committee had *inter-alia* recommended to the Ministry to set annual targets in order to ensure that there is no underutilization of the allocated funds. With the reply given by the Ministry, it is quite clear that the scheme has so far not moved beyond the drawing board of the Ministry. The Swarnapravas Yojana was envisaged to be a viable option to fill the gap in skill training in India. Such a poor performance does not go down well with the emphasis being accorded by the Government to the issue of providing skill training to the youth. The Committee also wish to be informed about the exact relationship of this scheme with the National Skill Development Programme. Now, the Committee are unable to guess what real progress can be made in implementation of the scheme when barely one and a half years remain during the current Five Year Plan? It is quite distressing for the Committee to note that such an ambitious scheme of the Government had been allowed to go waste due to want of proper implementation.**

**The Committee would recommend that the Ministry should analyze the reasons for this and should fix the accountability in this regard. As the Ministry has not furnished any information about the specific projects undertaken or the targets set for the youths to be trained during 2014-15, the Committee have no other choice but to assume that no projects have been undertaken and no specific targets have been set for training of youth. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry furnish the details of the remedial measures undertaken, at the action taken stage.**

**(Recommendation No. 13)**

**Emigration Management Bill**

35. The Committee had welcomed the initiative taken by the Ministry to overhaul the basic architecture of emigration in the country by bringing a new legislation in the form of Draft Emigration Management Bill. The Committee were of the opinion that such a change was long overdue as there have been significant transformations in the processes and dynamics of emigration in the recent past. The Committee had hoped that the new legislation would encapsulate these positive trends in emigration and would simultaneously cover up various loopholes in the existing regulatory framework. The Committee had, therefore, urged the Ministry to expedite the consultation process related to the proposed Bill in the overall interest of the potential migrants and to introduce it in Parliament for consideration at the earliest.

36. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"The Ministry has already initiated the consultation process with stakeholder Ministries and Departments to expedite the process of introduction of the proposed Bill in the Parliament. Various rounds of internal meetings and two rounds of inter-Ministerial meeting have already taken place in the process. In these meetings, efforts have also been made to identify the loopholes in the existing system and plug them in the new Bill in the interest of the potential migrations.

In parallel, State Government organizations are being encouraged to become Recruiting Agents under the Emigration Act, 1983."

**37. The Committee while appreciating the efforts undertaken by the Ministry to evolve a consensus on the Draft Emigration Management Bill, would like that the consultation process is expedited in a time bound manner. In view of the fact that this legislative overhaul was long overdue, any further delay in the matter is not warranted. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should introduce the Emigration Management Bill in the Parliament at the earliest.**

**(Recommendation No. 14)**

**Human Resources Mobility Partnerships (HRMPs)**

38. The Committee had understood that the Ministry as part of its mandate has taken up Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements with various prominent labour-importing countries in a phased manner. The Ministry is also taking steps to build the Human Resources Mobility Partnership (HRMPs) with key countries of destination in the European Union. Such a mobility partnership had already been signed with Denmark, whereas negotiation with the Netherlands is complete. Besides, negotiation with France and European Union is going on. The Committee, however, were not satisfied with the pace of negotiations and progress made in this regard and are concerned about the delays in inter-Ministerial consultations. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the negotiations with countries concerned should be initiated afresh at the highest level in order to facilitate their early conclusion. Inter-Ministerial discussions should also be expedited and all the concerned Ministries should be taken into confidence before entering into agreement with each country.

39. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"Recommendation of the Committee has been noted for initiating negotiations at highest level with the concerned countries and also for conclusion of the negotiation with European Union and France expeditiously."

**40. The Committee had recommended that negotiations related to the Human Resource Mobility Partnership Agreements with various countries should be expedited and Inter-**

Ministerial discussions be concluded in this regard. The Committee are constrained to note that no Human Resource Mobility Partnership Agreement has been signed with any other country except Denmark. The Ministry has also failed to furnish the progress made in negotiations held with various countries in this matter and the difficulties which are being faced thereon. The Committee are of a view that the negotiations with some of the European countries were in process for a long time now and it is high time they should start producing results. The Committee are distressed to note that the Ministry has not furnished any information on the progress of Inter-Ministerial discussions held in this regard except, a one line routine nature of reply ".....noted for initiating negotiations at highest level...." The Committee do not approve of such a casual reply by the Ministry and it would like the Ministry to desist from giving incomplete/vague replies in future. The Committee are also dismayed at the slow pace of negotiations on Labour Mobility Partnerships with various labour importing countries and would recommend that they should be concluded at the earliest by according highest priority to the matter, under intimation to them.

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **(Recommendation No. 1)**

The Committee had observed that the allocation made to the Ministry at BE stage for the year 2013-14 was Rs. 115.79 crore which was reduced to Rs.97.22 crore at RE stage and the final utilization was only Rs. 84.78 crore. This shows that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has once again failed in containing the trend of shortfall in utilization of allocation during 2013-14. The Committee were not convinced by the justification given by the Ministry that revision and reduction of Budget towards lower side at RE stage has been on account of the fact the expenditure on mass events like Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) and Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (RPBD) are incurred only in the second half of the year and the actual utilization on the first two quarters has been less. Surprisingly, the Committee had noted that the fund is not deducted under these heads during all these years but reduction is being done under other heads. Similarly, the Committee had also noted that the actual expenditure is also less than the Revised Estimates. The Committee had, however, found that after their continuous persuasion, the Ministry had taken some initiatives like timely release of Scholarship amount and money for Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK) and quarterly payment of rent etc. with a view to improve their quarterly expenditure. The Committee had, therefore, earnestly desired that the Ministry should regularly review and ensure timely release of funds for different purposes during 2014-15. The Committee had also reiterated that Ministry should resort to judicious internal allocation of funds quarterly and strictly monitor expenditure accordingly during each quarter, particularly when its funds are being reduced at RE stage on the basis of lower expenditure in the first two quarters of the financial year. The Committee were also of a strong opinion that without improving their current utilization pattern at each stage, the Ministry may not be able to obtain more funds at RE stage as per their requirements for various schemes/ programmes.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendation is related to expenditure pattern under various heads in the MOIA. As regards various major schemes like PBD, the flagship event of the Ministry is held during 7-9 January every



year, two editions of Know India Programmes (KIPs) and one edition of Study India Programme (SIP) coinciding with PBD are undertaken during the last quarter of the financial year and accordingly the expenditures are booked in the last quarter. The Committee's direction regarding monitoring of expenditure on a quarterly basis are noted for future guidance.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 2)**

The Committee were surprised to note that the e-Migrate Project has been considerably delayed due to lack of coordination/integration with the other related agencies and delay in data transfer. The Ministry was not even able to spend the allocation made for this project at BE stage. The project could not reach the 'Go live' level and the Ministry could only spend Rs. 0.43 crore during 2013-14. During 2014-15 under the IT head, a sum of Rs. 12.83 crore has been allocated and out of this approximately Rs. 8.00 crore are to be spent on the project which is sufficient for making payments to the implementing agency. The Committee had felt relieved to learn that after a long delay the project has come to a threshold level and all 10 PoE offices are providing emigration clearance through online e-Migrate system. The Committee had realized that since the e-Migrate rollout is at pilot stage, a large number of changes may be required on the basis of feedback received from recruiting agencies and PoE Offices. All these changes should be attended to without any delay and the programme should be made operational also for Indian Mission to allow foreign employers to apply to the Indian Missions for attestation on priority basis.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry has noted the concern of the Standing Committee regarding implementation of the e-Migrate project. The Ministry had considered various suggestions from the various stakeholders of the process and evolved the project accordingly to make the process user friendly. The project was rolled out on 26.05.2014 in Delhi PoE. It was rolled out in all the PoEs in phases by 25/09/2014. During 26/05/2014 to 30/04/2015, 1,79,253 demand requests were cleared on e-Migrate system.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 3)**

The Committee had observed that the amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was allocated to the Ministry during the year 2013-14 under the sub-head 'International Conference/ Meetings', but only an amount Rs. 60.00 lakhs was spent by the Ministry in organizing only one conference during the year 2013-14 and Rs. 11.00 lakhs for entertainment /hospitality purposes. The Committee were also surprised to note that the Ministry does not feel the need for advance planning of Conference/Meetings or for analyzing the outcome by conducting any specific study to justify the amount spent vis-à-vis the objectives achieved by organizing such programmes. This shows that there is a lack of foresight and sensitivity on the part of the Ministry in understanding the dynamics of migration with a view to facilitating policy formulation in this regard. The Committee had, therefore, strongly recommended that the Ministry should draw up a full schedule of all the Seminars/ Conference to be organized during a financial year along with the proposed expenditure well in advance, keeping in view the defined objectives and the international situation. The Committee had also desired that the Ministry should regularly review follow ups of such deliberations to ensure that the expenditure on each Seminar/ Conference is justified.

#### **Reply of the Government**

This recommendation is related to the International Seminars/Conferences and planning the proposed expenditure well in advance. The only international conference i.e. the Regional PBD was managed under the PBD head and not from the Budget head mentioned above. However, the Committees recommendation regarding drawing up a schedule of seminars/conferences to be organised during the financial year are noted for future guidance, alongwith the need to ensure that the expenditure on such Seminars/ Conferences is justified.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 4)**

14. The Committee had observed that the project for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi has been delayed inordinately and is still running behind the last announced target date of completion in all respects before the celebration of PBD 2015. The Committee have been informed that the paucity of funds is the main reason for the project not being completed and it may be completed within 3-4 months after release of funds of Rs. 26.27 crore by the Finance Ministry. The Committee had, however, noted that after announcement by the former Hon'ble Prime Minister

during PBD 2014 on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2014, that the PBK would be completed and become functional during 2015, the Ministry had made a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for Rs. 25.00 crore during 2013-14 but it was not agreed to. The Committee had, however, had a serious doubt about the sincerity with which the Ministry pursued the project because they find that the Ministry's demand for the Project at BE 2014-15 was Rs. 4 crore only against which the Ministry of Finance had made an allocation of Rs.15 crore at BE 2014-15. It is only at RE stage, the Ministry intends to submit a Demand of Rs. 21.27 crore. The Committee had, therefore, strongly urged that the Ministry should make sincere efforts for obtaining the requisite funds and completing the project timely as per the commitment made by Hon'ble Prime Minister before NRIs. The Committee should be apprised of the efforts made by the Ministry in this regard and the outcome thereof. The Committee had also hoped that the Government would come out with a time-bound programme regarding setting up of Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawans in the States on the lines of PBK in New Delhi. They had however, desired that the project should be attractive to the States with a scope for continuous coordination with the Centre and not merely in the form of one time grant only.

#### **Reply of the Government**

It is clarified that the Ministry had sought Rs. 15.00 crore for BE 2014-15 and an amount of Rs. 15.00 crore was allocated by Ministry of Finance in the BE for 2014-15. However, the Ministry had requested for allocation of Rs. 4.00 crore in the BE for 2015-16 for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK), New Delhi anticipating that Ministry of Finance would allocate Rs. 21.27 crore demanded by the Ministry in the RE for 2014-15. The Ministry of Finance has allocated Rs. 5.00 crore only in the RE for 2014-15 and Rs. 12.00 crore in the BE for 2015-16 for PBK.

As recommended by the Standing Committee, the proposal for further allocation of funds will be followed vigorously with Ministry of Finance so that the project is completed during 2015.

The recommendation of Standing Committee on setting up of Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawans (PBBs) in the States has been noted and will be considered while finalizing the scheme of setting up of PBBs.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 6)**

The Committee had noted the initiative being taken by the Government to merge the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) cards as they are of the view that it will lead to simplification of procedures and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and resources. The Committee had trusted that the Bill for making the necessary amendments in the Citizenship Act would be introduced in the Parliament without any further loss of time.

Further, the Committee were of the opinion that any commendable intervention and planning from the side of the Government for the welfare of Overseas Indians could only begin with the availability of a credible database containing information regarding their numbers, profiles and status across various countries. The Committee had, therefore, once again urged the Ministry to take all possible initiatives in a planned way to collate all statistical data concerning Overseas Indians, in close tandem with Indian Missions/Embassies in all countries hosting an Indian population, through a similar or modified methodology to that being applied by other countries having a large Diaspora. In the Committee's view, collecting the database is essential and the issues related to political and other sensitivities involved in some countries should be dealt with through diplomatic channels.

### **Reply of the Government**

The OCI Scheme and PIO Scheme have been merged by MHA through issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015, which has since been replaced with an Act of Parliament. As regards compilation of data base of overseas Indians, an exercise has been initiated and the existing data base of May, 2012 has been revised as on 01.01.2015 by taking inputs from Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The Missions/Posts have reported that as per their estimates there are 1,13,79,746 NRIs and 1,70,75,280 PIOs living in various countries abroad.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 7)**

The Committee had noted that the Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Yojna (MGPSY) was launched in May 2012 and is already available for workers to subscribe across India and UAE. But the Ministry has not been able to achieve the targets despite making several efforts and only 383 workers against a target of 10,000 could be registered under the Scheme during 2013-14. The Ministry seems to have lost hope and to have reduced the allocation for this scheme from 7 crore during 2013-14 to 4

crore for 2014-15. The Committee, however, did not find any valid reason for failure of this scheme which was specially designed for welfare of Indian workers.

The Committee were convinced about the noble objectives of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Surkasha Yojna (MGPSY), a social security scheme for the unskilled and semi-skilled Overseas Indian Workers with ECR Passports, in order to help them to save for their return and resettlement in India, save for their pension and obtain complementary life insurance cover during the period of Overseas employment. The Committee had assumed that before launching the scheme, the Ministry must have studied the likely legal hurdles, particularly in the Gulf countries and that it is unlikely that the situation has changed significantly therefore. In the Committee's view, the failure of the Scheme must have been on account of lack of adequate publicity amongst workers to convince them about the benefits, particularly in the uncertain conditions in the Gulf countries.

The Committee had, therefore, desired that before considering winding up of this scheme, the Ministry should conduct a publicity campaign vigorously in all Indian languages and organize more camps to educate and convince the workers to associate themselves with the scheme. To overcome the strict laws in some ECR countries, they should adopt alternative ways to reach the workers, including through the e-Migrate project. In the Committee's view any consideration of closing such an important and welfare oriented scheme should be concluded only after exhausting all possible ways of making the scheme successful.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry has taken note of the concern of the Standing Committee. It may be stated that to evince the interest of the workers in the scheme, the Ministry had carried out the following publicity campaigns during 2014-15:

1. One News Paper advertisement was released on 9th January 2014 during PBD 2014
2. A 2-week publicity campaign was launched on the Television Media for the first time from 15th Aug 2014 till 28th Aug 2014. The advertisements were released on all major channels in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali and Punjabi languages.

The Ministry has already started the process to integrate the scheme with e-Migrate project. This will also help in reaching out to workers who are planning to go abroad and applying for

emigration clearance through e-Migrate system. Various options to make the scheme successful would be examined before the option to close down the scheme is exercised."

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 8)**

The Committee had observed that the Ministry has started an internship programme for diaspora youth with the objective of bringing the young Overseas Indians closer and to bond them with contemporary India. During the year 2013-14, four editions of the Know India Programme (KIP) were held, in which 127 participants took part. The Ministry proposes to organize 4 more programmes during the year 2014-15 for which a Budget of Rs. 4.5 crore has been allocated. The Committee had, however, observed that no separate allocation has been made for another programme called the Study Indian Programme (SIP) which was started with academic focus including academic contents, cultural contents and visits. The Ministry has not clarified whether the contents of SIP have been merged with KIP or not. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the programme may be further reviewed and modified as necessary to make it comprehensive, more attractive and broad based by incorporating the contents of Study Indian Programme also so that more and more participants from all parts of the world and of diverse backgrounds are attracted to participate in the Know India programme. The Committee had also desired that all recommendation of CII in this regard should be considered and implemented and a status report should be submitted to the Committee.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Know India Programme (KIP), initially known as Internship Programme for Diaspora Youth (IPDY) was started from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2003 in Ministry of External Affairs. The IPDY was renamed as "Know India Programme" from December, 2006 when Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was formed as an independent Ministry.

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 bond closely with contemporary India. For each Know India Programme(KIP), upto 40 overseas youth participants are invited for the programme.

The Ministry has conducted 32 editions of KIPs so far and a total of 983 overseas Indian youth have participated in these programmes including 152 overseas participants in 5 (28<sup>th</sup> -32<sup>nd</sup> KIP) editions of KIPs during 2014-15. The 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> KIP and KIP 32<sup>nd</sup> were conducted during PBD-2015 to provide a much needed exposure to Diaspora matters for the KIP participants. In every KIP the number of applications being received from overseas youths for KIPs are increasing.

Based on the feedback of the participants of KIP, CII had made recommendations on KIP regarding pre-arrival, registration, arrival and departure assistance, programme scheduling, infrastructure and services, programme contents etc. These recommendations of CII have been taken into consideration by the Ministry resulting in increased number of applications for every succeeding KIPs from willing overseas youths. The approved guidelines/ contents of each KIP consisting of details of programme schedule and various conditions are sent to all the Indian Missions/Posts well in advance and uploaded in the website of the Ministry to keep the willing participants about those and for their preparation accordingly.

The SIP enables Overseas Indian youth to undergo short term course in an Indian University to familiarize them with the history, heritage, art, culture, socio-political, economic developments etc. of India. The focus of the programme is on academic orientation and research.

So far three editions of SIPs have been conducted where a total of 41 overseas youth participated including 18 overseas Indian youths of 3<sup>rd</sup> SIP from 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 at the Symbiosis University, Pune, Maharashtra.

The expenditure for KIP and SIP is made from the Budget Head 2061- External Affairs (Major Head) Details Head 03.05 other Charges 03.05.50(OH), though these programmes are different in the content and duration.

The Ministry has so far not merged the KIP and SIP programme. The pros & cons of merging the two schemes are being examined and a final view, as to whether the two schemes shall be continued in their existing form, or should be merged shall soon be taken.

It may also be kindly noted that the Ministry has decided to increase the number of KIPs up to 18 programmes per year. The duration of each KIP will also be 25 days, as compared to 21 days for previous KIPs. The KIP schedule will also include interactions with university students, where the participants do the state leg of their visit.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

**(Recommendation No. 10)**

The Committee were aware that the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), a public private partnership of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has been established at Gurgaon with the objective of facilitating and connecting India with the Indian Diaspora by promoting overseas Indian investment in India and facilitating business-to-business partnership between Indian business and Indians residing overseas. The Committee also find that OIFC has also taken steps to identify the expectations of Overseas Indians and their difficulties in understanding policy guidelines, taxation rules and repatriation formalities and their increased demand for information based services, handholding and grievance forum.

The Committee had, however, felt that a lot has to be done to fulfill their expectations and that the Ministry should dedicatedly work towards the deficit areas as pointed out in the findings of the study made in this regard. The Committee had desired to be apprised about the impact and outcome of the efforts made by OIFC in the matter.

**Reply of the Government**

1. OIFC takes note of the findings of the survey and the expectations of Overseas Indians, from OIFC. OIFC will reach out proactively to the Diaspora, in a process of sustained engagement with overseas Indians. OIFC will enhance its business engagement in 2015 – 16 by inviting more NRI/PIO led business delegations to India and connecting them to State Governments and Indian industry. To achieve this, OIFC will be an integral part of MOIA's outreach programmes in foreign countries. OIFC will also enhance its engagement with the States which are critical partners. OIFC will direct potential investors to these Partner States. OIFC started its webinar series which provide a real time engagement platform between Overseas Indians and domain experts in India.

2. In 2015-16, OIFC plans to expand its activities and launch programmes to target young diaspora entrepreneurs, small to mid size business owners, organize visits of business delegations



led by Overseas Indians, conduct closed - door meetings of high net individuals among overseas Indians and connect overseas Indians with Indian Social Entrepreneurs for impact investing.

3. As a result of its Diapsora Engagement Meets in Bahrain & UK, OIFC received three business delegations during the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) 2015 & Vibrant Gujarat (VG) 2015, from Bahrain (14 members), UK (15 members) and The Netherlands (11 members).

4. At its 'Market Place' during PBD 2015 & VG 2015, OIFC facilitated 176 B2B & 08 B2G meetings for visiting delegations. OIFC, pro-actively reached out to Indian industry who were not registered PBD delegates and invited them to meet the visiting delegations.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

**CHAPTER – III**

**RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE  
TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT REPLIES**

**-NIL-**

## CHAPTER – IV

### RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REQUIRE REITERATION

#### (Recommendation No. 11)

The Committee had taken note that the Indian Centre for Migration (ICM), New Delhi is the think tank of the Ministry regarding emerging opportunities in the international labour markets and for projecting India as a supplier of skilled, trained and qualified workers. The Committee had, however, found that the skill development project for potential migrants from North Eastern States was launched in 2011 with an objective of providing vocational training to 10,200 youth in hospitality, healthcare and education sectors. But only 1,443 youths have been trained so far under the project. They had also failed to spend the funds allocated for the ICM. The Committee were of an opinion that in the current scenario of emerging trends in labour migration, the Centre is positioned to play a pivotal role in shaping and defining India's migration flows. The need of the hour is to sufficiently augment the capacity of the Centre and therefore the Committee had desired that all the ongoing studies should be completed and expedited in a time bound manner along with the planning and implementation of the recommendations made in these reports. The Committee may accordingly be informed about the initiatives taken to achieve the targets set for training the youth under the programmes launched by the Centre.

#### Reply of the Government

Skill Development Initiative for Potential Migrants from the North-Eastern States of India", is a pilot project implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) under an agreement between ICM and IOM.

4. A total of 3,400 youth were to be trained with either complete or partial funding support from the project. Other targets were: development of three International Vocational Qualifications (IVQs), establishment of Skills Training and Certification Resource Centre (STCRC), drafting of National Roll-out Plan, Vision Documents for Overseas Employment. 1,443 youth were trained and certified as per the IVQs developed exclusively for the purpose of the pilot project in the North-East. A total of 6,800 persons were to be trained in vocational model on self-financing basis without any financial support from the project. No progress was reported by International Organization for Migration (IOM) to ICM in this regard.

5. In February 2015, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the implementing agency of the project, was informed the project may be brought to a logical conclusion immediately in light of delay in achieving its deliverables.

6. ICM completed a labour market assessment of six EU countries and studied trends in international labour markets. In its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 22 May 2015 in New Delhi the Governing Council approved ICM's road map for 2015-16, which includes updating of information on labour market trends periodically and examining standard labour agreements with destination countries."

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

**(Recommendation No. 12)**

The Committee had observed that the Ministry has been given an outlay of Rs. 20 crore by the Planning Commission for the ambitious Swarnapravas Yojna for skill development of Indian youth. The Outlay for this scheme for 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan is Rs. 137 crore and during the 5 years 2.08 lakh youth are to be trained under the scheme. The Committee, therefore, would impress upon the Ministry to take up the project with required seriousness, spend the allocation every year in a prudent way by setting desired targets and achieve those targets so that there is no underutilization of the allocated funds or failure in achieving the targets under the scheme.

The Committee had also recommended that the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) should be suitably empowered to look into various aspects of implementation of this Project. The Committee had further wanted to be apprised about the specific projects undertaken, the targets set for the youths to be trained during the year 2014-15 and the initiatives taken to achieve the targets under the Scheme. The Committee had also desired that there should be a mechanism for regular review to assess the effectiveness of the skills in fulfilling identified needs of the labour importing countries. The Committee had further desired that while identifying the centres for imparting such training, preference should be given to the economically backward districts in various States across the Country.

**Reply of the Government**

All the recommendations of the Committee have been noted for guidance. The Ministry is taking urgent steps to implement the Scheme expeditiously.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

## CHAPTER – V

### RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

#### (Recommendation No. 5)

The Committee had noted that in the name of making efforts, the Ministry has been writing letters to the State Governments or Ministry of Urban Development requesting them to provide suitable space for setting up of new PoEs Office at Rae Bareilly and Guwahati or for shifting of PoE offices at Cochin and Hyderabad, but with no results. They have only been able to shift the PoE Office, Thiruvananthapuram to a State Government Building and some work has been undertaken to modernize the PoE Offices at Mumbai and Kolkata. Therefore, under these circumstance the Committee do not approve the reasoning given by the Ministry wherein they have argued that, in view of no positive response from the State Governments, no allocation has been made at BE stage for PoE Offices and if the need arose then the funds would be obtained through submission of Revised Estimates. In the Committee's view, such an approach by the Ministry defeats the very purpose of the budgetary exercise. If the proposals of establishment and shifting of PoE Offices are in progress, they can materialize at any point of time and then it might not be feasible for funds to be arranged immediately. In case the necessary building or land could not be arranged, the allocated funds could be surrendered. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should take more concerted efforts to obtain space for the PoE Offices by taking it at the highest levels and simultaneously obtain requisite allocation at RE stage, which may be spent in remaining months of the financial year. Moreover, they should also make provision for sufficient funds in the Budgetary exercise for the next financial year for this purpose and apprise the Committee about the progress made in this regard.

#### Reply of the Government

It may be stated that the PoE Offices of Delhi, Kolkata and Chandigarh are in Central Govt. buildings. PoEs Hyderabad, Chennai, Trivandrum and Jaipur are in State Govt. buildings and PoEs Cochin, Mumbai and Rae Bareli are in private buildings.

The Ministry has taken up the issue of allotment of land for the PoE Offices in Mumbai, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai and Rai Bareli with the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India and concerned State Governments. Ministry of Urban Development has replied that the requirement of office space for POEs had been noted and would be considered along with other pending requests for GPOA as and when GPOA become available at these locations. Further response is awaited from the Ministry of Urban Development.

Ministry of Urban Development was requested to accede to approve the allotment of Govt. accommodation to the POE office, Cochin, in the premises where Regional Passport Office (RPO), Cochin is located. The Directorate of Estates, has informed that they had sought some clarification from Executive Engineer-cum-Estate Manager, Cochin Central Division, CPWD about the details of the space to be spared by RPO. POE(Kochi) has also reminded the Executive Engineer, CPWD Cochin for finalization of the proposal.

The matter of getting office space for the office of POE in Hyderabad at the premises of RPO, Hyderabad is being pursued.

Regarding opening of PoE Office at Guwahati, accommodation/space is yet to be made available by the State Government despite sending requests to Govt. of Assam a number of times.

It may be seen that the Ministry has constantly been making efforts for getting office space for the POE Offices in Govt. owned building with minimum rental outgo. The matter will be followed up earnestly.

Regarding allocation of funds, it may be stated that it is not known how much budgetary provision would be required if land/building is made available for establishment/shifting of new/existing PoE offices. Moreover, if any amount of funds are kept in BE and are surrendered at the end of the year due to non-availability of land/building, the Ministry have to provide clarification as to why the funds had been asked. The surrendering of funds may be seen as lack of proper planning on the part of the Ministry. Therefore, to avoid the surrendering of funds, funds are not being kept in BE. If at any time during the year, the land/buildings are made available, funds would be arranged by way of re-appropriation or seeking additional funds.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 9)**

The Committee had on the one hand noted that under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) the Ministry in principle has decided to increase the number of scholarships from 100 to 200 and scholarship amount from \$ 4000 to \$ 5000 but on the other hand there is a steady decline in the number of applications from the Diaspora children since 2009-10. For 2014-15 only 190 applications have been received from the Diaspora children. Moreover, it also creates doubts about the seriousness of the Ministry as the Ministry has not enhanced the budget for the Scheme, rather only Rs. 8.56 crore has been allocated for 2014-15 as against the RE of Rs.8.83 crore for 2013-14. The Committee were, therefore, of the opinion the first of all it should analyze the reasons for the steady decline in the number of applications for scholarships offered under this scheme, including the standing and accreditation of the institutions and the type of courses offered to the students under the scheme. The Committee had once again urged the Ministry to expand the reach of the programme and include only the best institutions for admissions under the Scheme if it really intends that the students selected for such scholarship become brand ambassadors for India and its educational institutions and represent India globally as a sought-after educational hub. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry should also seek enhanced allocation for the increased number and amount of scholarship at the Revised Estimates stage.

### **Reply of the Government**

"The Ministry has examined the reasons for the decline in the number of applications under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) and the decline in application could be attributed to a number of factors which are outlined below:

(i) Amount of Scholarship:

Presently, the Institutional Economic Cost (IEC) with regards to NITs range from US\$ 7500- US\$8500 per year and the maximum scholarship allowed is US\$ 4000 only which is nearly half the IEC. This difference in scholarship amount and actual fees paid to Institutes may pose a financial overload on students opting to study in India, especially in NITs.

(ii) Number of Scholarship seats:

Since the number of scholarship seats is only 100, many students particularly those without high marks may not wish to apply presuming lesser chances of being shortlisted.

EdCIL were requested to incorporate institutions of national repute like JNU, DU, IITs and various IIMs under the scheme to accommodate the increased number of aspirants for undergraduate courses in Engineering, Science, Law, Management etc. It came to light that Institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, IITs and various IIMs have different criteria for admission, such as the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for IIT, Common Aptitude Test (CAT) for IIMs and also tests which university/institutions conduct on their own for admission at the entry level for undergraduate courses. Whereas, in the SPDC scheme the merit list is prepared based on the scores obtained by the students in their qualifying examination, i.e., 12<sup>th</sup> class.

Hence, the placement of the NRI/PIO students in the above institutions through the SPDC Scheme would materialize only if the students qualify the respective entrance exams for admission to those institutes.

(iii) The matter regarding increase in the amount of scholarship from US\$ 4000 to US\$ 5000 per year and number of seats from 100 to 200 had been examined in MOIA. Order of the then HMOIA was taken for increasing the scholarship to US\$5000 per annum(subject to 75% of IEC cost or less) and the number of scholarships to 200 per year. Comments of MHRD were taken and comments of MEA & ICCR are awaited.

However, the Ministry is now considering modifying the SPDC Scheme to ensure that NRI/PIOs scholars are admitted to universities / colleges that are of a prescribed standard only, to ensure the quality of education being imparted. Scholarship in such cases could be given only to those NRI/PIO students who are able to get admission into these institutions. The modified Scheme would be given due publicity. Pending these changes to be made, fresh applications have not been invited for the current year.

The budgetary provision would be made based on the actual expenditure that is likely to be incurred once the changes as above have been implemented.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)



### **(Recommendation No. 13)**

The Committee had welcomed the initiative taken by the Ministry to overhaul the basic architecture of emigration in the country by bringing a new legislation in the form of Draft Emigration Management Bill. The Committee were of the opinion that such a change was long overdue as there have been significant transformations in the processes and dynamics of emigration in the recent past. The Committee had hoped that the new legislation would encapsulate these positive trends in emigration and would simultaneously cover up various loopholes in the existing regulatory framework. The Committee had, therefore, urged the Ministry to expedite the consultation process related to the proposed Bill in the overall interest of the potential migrants and to introduce it in Parliament for consideration at the earliest.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry has already initiated the consultation process with stakeholder Ministries and Departments to expedite the process of introduction of the proposed Bill in the Parliament.

Various rounds of internal meetings and two rounds of inter-Ministerial meeting have already taken place in the process. In these meetings, efforts have also been made to identify the loopholes in the existing system and plug them in the new Bill in the interest of the potential migrations.

In parallel, State Government organizations are being encouraged to become Recruiting Agents under the Emigration Act, 1983.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

### **(Recommendation No. 14)**

The Committee had understood that the Ministry as part of its mandate has taken up Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements with various prominent labour-importing countries in a phased manner. The Ministry is also taking steps to build the Human Resources Mobility Partnership (HRMPs) with key countries of destination in the European Union. Such a mobility partnership has already been signed with Denmark, whereas negotiation with the Netherlands is complete. Besides, negotiation with France and European Union is going on. The committee, however, were not satisfied with the pace of negotiations and progress made in this regard and are concerned about the delays in inter-Ministerial consultations. The Committee had, therefore, desired that the negotiations with

countries concerned should be initiated afresh at the highest level in order to facilitate their early conclusion. Inter-Ministerial discussions should also be expedited and all the concerned Ministries should be taken into confidence before entering into agreement with each country.

### **Reply of the Government**

Recommendation of the Committee has been noted for initiating negotiations at highest level with the concerned countries and also for conclusion of the negotiation with European Union and France expeditiously.

(F.No. H-11021/24/2014-P&C)

**NEW DELHI**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Novemebr,2015**  
***15 Kartika, 1937 (Saka)***

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR,**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on External Affairs**

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2015-16) HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2015**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 from 1100 hrs. to 1250 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Dr. Shashi Tharoor – Chairperson

**MEMBERS**

**Lok Sabha**

2. Shri Arka Keshari Deo
3. Prof (Dr) Sugata Bose
4. Shri Jose K. Mani
5. Shri Chhedi Paswan
6. Shri A. Anwhar Raajhaa
7. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram
8. Shri Mohammad Salim
9. Prof. (Dr.) Mamta Sanghamita
10. Shri Sharad Tripathi

**Rajya Sabha**

11. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
12. Shri H.K. Dua
13. Shri Ram Kumar Kashyap
14. Dr. Karan Singh
15. Shri D.P. Tripathi
16. Shri Pavan Kumar Varma

**Secretariat**

1. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Director
2. Smt. Jyochnamayi Sinha - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.
3. The Committee took up for consideration the following draft Reports on: (i) Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Third Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2014-15. (ii) XXXXXXXXXX  
(iii) XXXXXXXXXX XX.

4. The Chairperson invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Reports. The Members suggested some minor modifications. The Committee adopted the draft Reports with these minor modifications.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Action Taken Reports incorporating the suggestions made by the Members. It was also decided that since Parliament is not in session the Chairperson may present the reports to the Hon'ble Speaker under Rule 71A of the Directions by the Speaker with a request to permit the printing, publication and circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and subsequently, these Reports will be presented to both the Houses of the Parliament after commencement of the next session.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

*(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of Report)*

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRD REPORT  
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (16<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>(i) Total Number of Recommendations</b>  | <b>14</b>                 |
| <b>(ii) Recommendations/Observations, which have been accepted by the Government.</b>   |                           |
| Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10.  |                           |
|   | <b>Total-08</b>           |
|   | <b>Percentage: 57.14%</b> |
| <b>(iii) Recommendation/Observation which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies.</b>                          |                           |
| NIL   |                           |
|   | <b>Total-00</b>           |
| <b>(iv) Recommendation/Observation in respect of which reply of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration.</b> |                           |
| Recommendation No. 11 and 12.   |                           |
|   | <b>Total- 02</b>          |
|   | <b>Percentage: 14.28%</b> |
| <b>(v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.</b>                                      |                           |
| Recommendation Nos. 5, 9, 13 and 14.  |                           |
|   | <b>Total-04</b>           |
|   | <b>Percentage: 28.57%</b> |