

9

**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 Fifth Report
(16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of
Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2015-16]

NINTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

November, 2015/KARTIKA, 1937 (Saka)

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[Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report
(16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of
Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2015-16]

Presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 18th November, 2015

Presented to Lok Sabha on 30th November, 2015

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 2nd 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)**

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Name of Members</u>
1.	Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Chairperson
Lok Sabha	
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 Lakhnarpal
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
Rajya Sabha	
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 Ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2015-16.

2. The Fifth Report was presented to the Parliament on 28th April, 2015. The Action Taken Replies of the Government on all the recommendations/observations contained in the Report were received on 8th September, 2015.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Action Taken Report at their sitting held on 20th 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 Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (16th Lok Sabha) is given at Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI
6th 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 Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2015.

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: -

(i) Observations/Recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government.

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3,6,9 and 11

Total-06

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies.

NIL

Total- 00

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration.

Recommendation No. 4, 13,14 and 16

Total- 04

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

Recommendation Nos. 5,7,8,10, 12 and 15

Total-06

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 the Report.**

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

(Recommendation No. 1 and 2)

Uneven utilization of funds by the Ministry and poor spending trend

5. The Committee had observed that the allocation made to the Ministry at the BE stage for the year 2014-15 was Rs. 148.98 crore which was reduced to Rs. 99.00 crore at the RE stage. The Committee had also noted that the actual utilization during 2014-15 was only Rs. 62.33 crore and it could not spend Rs. 36.67 crore and once again had failed badly to utilize even the RE allocation. The Committee were also not convinced with the arguments put forth by the Ministry that the major part of the allocation was incurred in the last quarter because the expenditure for flagship events like PravasiBhartiya Divas (PBD), Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Know India Programme (KIP) and Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCD) was booked in the last quarter. The Committee had noted that during 2014-15 the Ministry had proposed to utilize Rs.54.16 crore (anticipated) during the last quarter. However, the total expenditure envisaged under those aforementioned heads would add upto Rs. 26.15 crore only. The Committee, thereafter, were critical of the poor and uneven expenditure pattern of the Ministry continuously for the last several years. That trend created an impression that everything was not going well in the Ministry and the Financial Management required significant improvement. In those circumstances, the view had been gaining ground that perhaps the Ministry had failed to justify its creation and fulfill the objectives for which it was created. The Committee, thereafter, had desired that the Ministry should improve its working and make all possible efforts to utilize the allocated budget during 2015-16 through proper planning and regular monitoring. Moreover, the Committee were of a firm view that the Ministry should spread their expenditure pattern more evenly even within the constraints of organizing those events towards the end of the year.

6. The Committee had also noted that the budgetary allocation of the Ministry for the year 2015-16 (BE) had been reduced to Rs. 118.17 crore from that of Rs. 148.98 crore during 2014-15(BE). Such a reduction on a BE to BE basis had not taken place during the last five years and the Ministry had failed to give convincing reasons for the budgetary cuts it had to endure. The Committee had considered that poor spending trend of the Ministry during 2014-15 would have

been the most important reason for lower allocation during 2015-16, as the Ministry had managed to spend only Rs. 44.84 crore till December, 2014 against the reduced RE of Rs. 99.00 crore. The Committee had noted that the Ministry had promised to implement various schemes vigorously during the Financial year 2015-16 but had cautioned that if the Ministry continued the same trend, it might not be able to get required funds even as supplementary Demands for Grants. The Committee, therefore, had desired that the Ministry should substantially improve its spending mechanism and try to prove their commitment towards the implementation of schemes relating to the welfare of the Diaspora and emigrant workers so that they might be able to get additional funds at the RE stage during the current financial year.

7. On the issue of uneven utilization of funds by the Ministry, 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 Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. Several factors during the last financial year resulted in reduced expenditure during the said financial year. However, this Ministry is making concerted efforts to utilize the allocated budget for the year 2015-16 in full.

The expenditure pattern during the current financial year shows encouraging trend. For example, Rs 7.05 crores has already been utilized under PBD head against BE of Rs 7.53 crores (i.e. 93% utilization)

The Ministry has also moved re-appropriation proposal for Rs.6.80 crores to clear pending bills relating to PBD bills of 2014-15.

IDF –OI and OIFC are reorienting themselves and will be seeking a more sustained and pro-active engagement with the Indian Diaspora. Given their expanded scope of activities for 2015-16, it is envisaged that they will not only spend the funds that are allocated to them at BE 2015-16 stage, but also need additional allocations.

MOIA is planning to launch its media campaign for 2015-16 on the theme of safe and legal migration with an estimated expenditure of about Rs 8crores in media campaign on TV and Radio by December 2015. It is expected that additional funds may be needed for the media campaign at RE 2015-16 stage."

8. In regard to Committee's recommendation on poor spending trend of the Ministry, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-

"The recommendation is related to expenditure pattern under various heads in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The Committee's recommendation that the Ministry should substantially improve its spending mechanism, has been noted in MOIA for guidance. Current status in this regard is briefly mentioned in the reply to Recommendation No. 1."

9. While analyzing the Budget of the Ministry, the Committee were critical for the poor and uneven expenditure trend of the Ministry. They had also desired that the Ministry should improve its working and make all possible efforts to utilize the allocated budget during 2015-16 through proper planning and regular monitoring. From the action taken replies, the Committee have noted that the Ministry has taken some steps to improve its spending mechanism during the current financial year. It has already utilized Rs. 7.05 crore under Pravasi Bhartiya Divas head against the BE of Rs. 7.53 crore and has also moved re-appropriation proposal for Rs. 6.80 crore to clear pending bills relating to Pravasi Bhartiya Divas bills for the year 2014-15. However, the Ministry has not elaborated upon any measures to spend their funds more evenly during the current financial year. The Committee are displeased to note the expenditure is being forwarded to the next fiscal and perhaps the Ministry is clearing the Bills of the previous year under the grants of the current year because this trend defeats the very purpose of the budgetary exercise. The spirit of the Committee's recommendation was not just restricted to the Ministry making full utilization of its budgetary allocation but to improve its overall working also. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should not carry forward the expenditure it had incurred during the previous year and it should be settled within the same financial year. The Committee would also reiterate that the Ministry should ensure proper utilization of its budgetary allocation under each head and spread their expenditure more evenly throughout

the year by instituting sufficient monitoring mechanism. Further, the Committee also desire the Ministry to streamline its working pattern.

(Recommendation No. 3)

Reduced spending under the Head Secretariat- General Services

10. The Ministry was allocated a sum of Rs. 40.36 crore during 2014-15 (BE) for expenditure on salaries, wages, office expenses, rents and automation of the Secretariat and field offices of POEs. The Committee had taken a serious view to note that for those routine office expenses, the allocation was reduced to Rs. 28.73 crore at the RE stage and that regrettably the Ministry was able to spend only Rs. 15.59 crore till the end of third quarter of the year under that head, and they proposed to spend Rs. 13.14 crore during the last quarter of the year. That clearly showed that the Ministry was not even able to spend the allocation made for administrative expenses of the Ministry. That revealed a major administrative failure of the Ministry and the Committee found it as another example of lopsided spending pattern of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, had not approved of such expenditure trend even for routine administrative purposes and had recommended that the Ministry should take all initiatives to maintain a uniform spending pattern across each quarter under that head, as the sub-heads there were not subject to fluctuating expenditure.

11. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has stated as under:-
"Out of a sum of Rs. 40.36 crores during 2014-15 under Establishment, Rs. 12.83 crores was allocated for e-Migrate project under the Head Information Technology (Office Expenditure). More than 79% of the total savings made under the Secretariat/Establishment head has been on account of delay in e-Migrate project going live. In addition, savings have been on account of reduced spending on overtime allowance (66%), medical expenses (44%), domestic travel (44%), foreign travel (50%). The Ministry has noted the recommendation as regard to taking initiative and maintaining uniform spending pattern across each quarter for the various Heads under the Secretariat/Establishment head."

12. The Committee had expressed their unhappiness over the poor spending of the Ministry even for routine office expenses like salaries, wages, office expenses, rents and automation of the Secretariat and field offices of Protector of Emigrants (PoEs). As per the

reply furnished by the Ministry, Rs. 12.83 crore was allocated for the e-Migrate Project under the Head Information Technology (Office Expenditure) and more than 79% of the total savings made under the Secretariat/Establishment head has been on account of delay in the e-Migrate Project going live. However, the Committee are aware that the e-Migrate project was rolled out on 26th May, 2014 in PoE, Delhi and it was rolled out in all the PoEs in phases by 25th September, 2014. In light of the above facts, the Ministry may elaborate as to the head under which the expenditure for the roll-out of the e-Migrate project was incurred, if it was not incurred under the Head Information Technology (Office Expenditure)? The Ministry may also clarify whether the reduced spending on various items like overtime allowance, medical expenses, domestic travel and foreign travel had been on account of some proactive measures being adopted by the Ministry to effect austerity or it simply reflects the inability of the Ministry to spend the requisite funds under these items? The Committee would also like to reiterate their recommendation that the Ministry should repeat this type of spending pattern during 2015-16 and take all initiatives to maintain a uniform spending across each quarter under this head.

(Recommendation No. 4)

International Conferences/Meetings

13. The Committee had observed that the amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was allocated to the Ministry during 2014-15 under the sub-head 'International Conferences/ Meetings' and it was reduced to Rs. 10.00 lakh at RE stage. The Ministry had reasoned that it could not organize any Conference/ Meeting during the year, therefore, funds could not be spent for that purpose. The Committee had strongly criticized the Ministry for not organizing any Meeting or Conference

related to Diaspora engagement and discussions with counterparts from the foreign countries and also for finalization of Agreements/ MOUs during the year. The Committee had also noted that for the year 2015-16, the Ministry had got an allocation of Rs. 0.76 crore, but there was no advance planning of Conferences/ Meetings also. The Committee, thereafter, had strongly recommended that the Ministry should conduct advance planning for all the Conferences/ Meetings to be organized during the financial year alongwith the proposed expenditure well in advance, keeping in view its requirements of Diaspora engagements and holding discussions with its foreign counterparts to avoid such failure in organizing any Conference/ Meeting during 2015-16 also.

14. 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 Committee's recommendation regarding drawing up a schedule of seminars/conferences to be organised during the financial year are noted for future guidance."

15. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry should conduct advance planning for all the Conferences/Seminars to be organized during the year along with the proposed expenditure well in advance. However, the Committee are concerned to note that in all these years the Ministry has not moved an inch beyond noting down the Committee's recommendation for future guidance. The Ministry had given an identical reply on this issue to the Committee's recommendation contained in their Third Report. In this scenario it will be difficult for the Committee to take the words of the Ministry beyond their face value. The Committee would, therefore, once again strongly recommend that the Ministry should start acting on its promises and should resort to judicious planning of the Conferences/Seminars to be organized during the current year and onwards.

(Recommendation No. 5)

Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra

16. The Committee had observed that the project for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi had been delayed inordinately. The previously announced target date for completion was the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 2015 and the same could not be adhered to. Then the Ministry planned to get the building inaugurated on 15 August, 2015 after finishing the work of furnishing and finishing. The Committee had hoped that the Ministry would undertake all out efforts in order to ensure that the project was finished well within the new deadline. The Committee had viewed that it would not be a tall order for the Ministry to accomplish that mission as in the past it was held up due to lack of funds and that time the Ministry had evinced satisfaction at the availability of funds at its disposal for the completion of work.

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

"Efforts are being made to complete the work of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra so that it is ready for inauguration as early as possible. The construction works is nearly complete and we are taking steps to make the building functional."

18. The Committee note that the Ministry is shifting the deadline for finishing the project of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra again and again. The Ministry had set up the latest deadline of

15th August, 2015 and the same had not been adhered to due to the laxity of the Ministry.

The Committee are unable to understand the reasons for this tardy progress when the

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had submitted in March, 2015 that the civil

work of the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra was almost complete. Now, after six months, the

Ministry has submitted the same status that the construction work is nearly complete. What

makes the failure of the Ministry even more glaring is the fact that in the past the project

was stated to be held up due to lack of funds and this time the Ministry had evinced

satisfaction at the availability of funds. In this scenario, it is difficult for the Committee to

believe that the Ministry is making serious efforts to finish the project even by the extended time and the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra still remains a dream for NRIs/PIOs. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should initiate all out efforts to make the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra functional positively before the end of this year.

(Recommendation No. 6)

Data on NRIs/PIOs

19. The Committee had noted that after the decentralization of work related to printing and dispatch of the OCI cards, there would be no role of MOIA in the Overseas Citizenship of India Scheme at all. The Committee were not in agreement with such decision where the Ministry had been kept devoid of any role in such an important matter relating to Indian Diaspora. The Committee had strongly felt that with such decision the country might lose the goodwill which we expect from the Indian Diaspora. The Committee had clear view that without the involvement of MOIA in the scheme, the engagement with the Diaspora and earning their goodwill might not be possible. The Committee, therefore, had desired a stronger and defined role of the Ministry in that scheme particularly in the scrutiny part and implementation of the scheme as a whole.

The Committee were happy to note that the Ministry had already started the exercise of updating the data of NRIs and PIOs from different parts of the world. It had been felt by the Committee that the absence of such a comprehensive data base was a major lacuna in the framing of policies on various issues affecting the Diaspora and in implementing the same. The Committee had therefore recommended that this exercise should be expedited and concluded at the earliest and the Committee should also be apprised about the same.

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

"The decision to decentralize the printing and dispatch of OCI documents to Indian Missions/ Posts abroad/MEA has been taken with a view to reduce the time line involved in the issue of OCI Cards. Government aims to reduce this period to 7 days and this can be possible only if the card is printed in the Missions/Posts itself. However, notwithstanding transfer of the printing work to MEA, this Ministry will continue to discharge other functions entrusted to it under the Allocation of Business Rules, with regard to Overseas Citizen of India card holders.

The MOIA has already completed the exercise to compile data of NRI and PIO population in 206 countries/independent territories and the revised list has been

uploaded on MOIA's website. The population of overseas Indians is presently over 28 million of which around 60% comprise Persons of Indian origin (PIO). Revision of this data will be undertaken from time to time."

21. The Committee are pleased to note that as per strong desire of the Committee, the Ministry has completed the exercise of compiling the data of NRI/PIO population in 206 countries/independent territories and the revised list has been uploaded on the website of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The Committee also appreciate the efforts of the Ministry in finishing this extensive exercise in a time-bound manner. The Committee are of a considered opinion that it must not be seen as static data, rather the Ministry should undertake measures to update this at regular intervals. The Committee would also recommend that this data should be used as base for policy formulation and identifying the issues related to the Diaspora in particular Regions/countries of the world.

The Committee would also recommend that various issues related to the smooth implementation of the merger of Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards should be addressed immediately in consultation with other stakeholder Ministries.

(Recommendation No. 7)

Awareness campaign/Media Plan

22. The Committee were aware that the Ministry had been running an awareness campaign since 2007 in order to create wider awareness among the general public on a variety of issues related to legal, safe and orderly migration. But, the Committee were not impressed at all with the justification given by the Ministry that during the whole year 2014-15 the Ministry did not undertake any media awareness campaign as it was reviewing the campaign in order to make it

more effective. The Committee had, thereafter, recommended that the Ministry should proceed to conduct a yearlong effective media campaign with the defined objectives of creating awareness about legal, safe and orderly migration and cautioning people about illegal practices being faced by migrants including harassment and desertion by NRI spouses. In that regard, the Committee had specifically desired that the nature of assistance being provided to deserted/abandoned NRI wives should be modified and advertised widely. The Committee also recommended that the amount of financial assistance for such suffering women should also be enhanced and they should be suitably educated about such enhancements. The Committee were also aware that social media has emerged as a very viable platform for public exchange today and its rising use among the new generation was beyond dispute. The messages floated on social media are more amenable to easy dissemination and recall.

The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should come out with a blueprint to make extensive use of social media tools in that regard to benefit the would-be emigrants and to educate them about legal and safe migration. The Committee had desired that the Ministry should commission an independent study to assess the impact of those media campaigns and to undertake reviews of the broader goals from time to time. The Committee had also desired that those media campaigns should be undertaken in Hindi and other prominent regional languages to increase the outreach of those campaigns to the wider public.

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

"For Financial Year 2015-16 Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has an allocation of Rs. 9.50 crore for Awareness Campaign/Media Plan.

2. The Ministry has reviewed and re-oriented media awareness plan of the Ministry and for 2015-16, the Ministry proposes to undertake a media campaign in Television, Radio including in regional languages especially in states where the problems pertaining to migrant workers are most prevalent.

3. The campaign for 2015-16 in multiple media is proposed to be conducted on the theme of Safe and Legal migration of the Indian Migrant workers to foreign countries for employment and other important issues.

4. The campaign will enhance awareness about the precautions to be taken before migrating, ways of ensuring safe and legal migration and also inform about MOIA's Toll-free help lines which provide information and advice to intending migrants.

5. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs proposes to organize a workshop in New Delhi on issues faced by Indian Women married to NRIs/PIOs, in coordination with the National Commission for Women and the NRI Departments/ Commissions of concerned State Governments.

6. MOIA has a scheme for providing legal and financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) overseas

spouse. MOIA has taken note of the committee's recommendation that there should be review of the scheme for future guidance.

7. Ministry has also taken note of the committee's recommendation that Ministry should make extensive use of social media tools in our media awareness campaign; and that an independent study could be constituted to study the impact of this Ministry's media campaign for future guidance."

24. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry should proceed to conduct a year long effective media campaign with the defined objectives of creating awareness about various aspects related to safe and orderly migration. The Ministry in its action taken reply has only alluded to certain actions which it proposes to undertake for the above mentioned ends. But the Committee observe that even after passing of five months during the current financial year, the Ministry has not yet started to roll out the proposed media campaign. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should embark upon its media campaign for the year for reaching out to the targeted audience in an effective way without wasting any further time. Similarly, in response to the Committee's recommendation on a need to make a blueprint to make extensive use of social media tools in the awareness campaign and to constitute an independent study to know the impact of campaign, the Ministry has merely replied that it has taken note of the Committee's recommendation in this regard. The Committee would, therefore, desire that the Ministry should desist from giving such vague and incomplete replies. The Committee reiterate that the work relating to preparation of a blueprint to tap the social media platform for creating awareness and commissioning of an independent study to study the impact of these media campaign should be undertaken by the Ministry without any further delay.

(Recommendation No. 8)

Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora

25. The Committee had noted that the Ministry had failed to spend even a small amount of Rs. 5 crore allocated during 2014-15 for a very important scheme for Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora. The Committee had understood that culture and language play a major role in the lives of the people and communities and it was the common thread which could bind people belonging to otherwise diverse persuasions. But it appeared, the Ministry had no planning to foster cultural ties with the Diaspora. The Committee were happy to note that the allocation for the year 2015-16 under the scheme has been enhanced by the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, had desired that the Ministry should prepare a set of programmes through which they could help reinforce the cultural identity of People of Indian Origin in meaningful ways. In that regard, the Committee had also suggested the Ministry should undertake their programmes in active collaboration with India Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) by using their physical presence in a number of countries and engagement in similar activities.

The Committee had also suggested that the Ministry should explore the idea of opening stalls at major Airports of the world showcasing and promoting Indian culture to a larger population including the Diaspora. The Committee were of the view that those stalls might have the potential to emerge as major points of engagement with the Diaspora in the long run.

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

"A substantial part of the allotment under the Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora was for the Ghadar Memorial Project in San Francisco. Doubts had arisen on the cost proposed for renovation of the memorial. There are several issues which require consultation with the Overseas Indian Communities at the local level. This is being planned. The initial estimate received for renovation was approximately Rs.37 Crores.

Further, ICCR has now been requested to identify the scope of various joint activities through which MOIA could help reinforce the cultural identity of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in meaningful ways. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also been addressed to understand the feasibility of opening stalls at major airports of the world for sharing & promoting Indian Culture to a larger population including the Indian Diaspora."

27. The Committee note that the Ministry has taken some credible steps to address the issues put forth by the Committee in their recommendation regarding promotion of cultural

ties with Indian Diaspora. It has already requested ICCR to identify the scope of various joint activities and has also addressed the Ministry of Civil Aviation to understand the feasibility of opening stalls at major airports of the world. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry should prepare a set of programmes through which they could help reinforce the cultural identity of People of Indian Origin in meaningful ways. The Committee are constrained to note that in its reply, the Ministry has failed to elaborate any measures taken in this direction, apart from the renovation of the Ghadar Memorial Project in San Francisco. The Committee are of a considered view that allocations under this scheme should not be exhausted in a single big ticket project but multiple small and viable theme based projects reflecting the local cultures of the Indian Diaspora should also be supported by the Ministry.

(Recommendation No. 9)

Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana

28. The Committee had noted the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) was launched in May, 2012 and was already available for workers to subscribe across India and UAE. The Committee however, were constrained to note that the Ministry had so far been successful in enrolling only 1265 workers under the scheme. Further, the Ministry had not made any budgetary allocation for the scheme for 2015-16 on the ground that it was considering a revamp of the scheme to make it a Comprehensive Social Security Scheme for Overseas Indian Workers. The Committee were of the considered view that even when the revamp of the scheme was being considered, it should not have come in the way for allocating sufficient funds to the scheme. Not allocating any fund was like halting a scheme and preventing the new subscribers joining the scheme till it was revamped. The Committee, therefore, had desired that the Ministry should come out with the revamped scheme and till then new interested subscribers should be enrolled in the existing scheme and contribution of Government should continue for old as well as new

subscribers. The Committee had also desired that the Ministry should augment its media campaign and other efforts in order to make the scheme attractive to ECR and Non-ECR workers alike.

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

"The account Head for MGPSY is as under:
Demand No. 70-Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs,
2061- External Affairs (Major Head)
00.800 – Other Expenditure (Minor Head)
03 – Other Schemes (Sub Head),
00.03 – Other Items.
03.03.50 – Other Charges (Object Head)
under which Rs. 1, 50,00,000 in BE 2015-16.

2. Steps are being undertaken to revamp the MGPSY scheme. Secretary, MOIA has already held two meetings with the stakeholders of MGPSY to discuss the issues arising in the implementation of the scheme. An important issue is that the 'NPS lite' scheme, which was a component of MGPSY, has been discontinued. This has been replaced with the Atal Pension Yojana (APS) which has certain different scheme inclusions, eligibility and implementation modalities.

3. The suggestion regarding creating awareness on the scheme is noted for guidance."

30. During examination of Demands for Grants (2015-16), the Committee had observed from the Outcome Budget (2015-16) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs that no allocation was made under the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) for the year 2015-16. However, as per the action taken reply in the detailed Demands for Grants (2015-16), an allocation of Rs. 1.5 crore has been made for the scheme under the Object Head 03.03.50 (Other Charges). The Committee strongly feel that the simple statement 'Other Charges' does not indicate that the amount will be spent for this purpose. Therefore, they desire the Ministry to look into this discrepancy and explain the reasons for the same alongwith the mode in which they want to spend this amount.

The Committee has also been informed that 'NPS lite' scheme which was a component of MGPSY has been replaced with Atal Pension Yojana (APS) which has certain different scheme inclusions, eligibility and implementation modalities. The Committee are afraid that due to overlap, this change will lead to a lot of confusion in the minds of emigrants. The

Committee would, therefore, recommend that vigorous media campaign should be undertaken by the Committee to increase the awareness about the revamped scheme amongst emigrants.

(Recommendation No. 10)

Know India Programme (KIP)

31. The Committee had observed that the Know India Programme (KIP) was an important vehicle for an engagement with the next generation of the Indian Diaspora and for fostering their close bond with contemporary India. The Ministry had been able to organize five such programmes during the year 2014-15. The Committee were further pleased to note that the Ministry had enhanced the budgetary allocation for the programme from Rs. 4.50 crore during 2014-15 to Rs. 8.00 crore for 2015-16 and was also considering an increase in the number of participants and enriching its content. The Committee were of the opinion that the platform of KIP offers the Government a very good opportunity to engage with the new generation of Diaspora. KIP could prove to be an effective vehicle for continuous engagement with the next generation of influential Diaspora as many of them will become opinion makers in their respective countries in the coming years. Thereafter, the Committee were of the opinion that the Ministry should use innovative communication tools like social media to stay in touch with the participants of the programmes once the programme comes to an end and the participants return to their respective countries.

The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry should make the programme more broad based so as to include more number of States in its programme. The Committee had wanted to ensure that the programme reflected the diversity of the country and not a partial impression. Care should be taken to enhance the educational aspects of the KIP so that did not get reduced to a mere tourist programme.

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

"Know India Programme (KIP), an engagement programme with the next generation of the Indian Diaspora and for fostering their close bond with contemporary India is being revised. It has been decided to increase the no. of editions of the programme from 4 to 18 per year and the duration of the programme has also been increased from 21 to 25 days. State Governments have also been requested for hosting KIPs in their states. The Committee's recommendation for use of social media to stay in touch with the participants once the Programmes are over, is noted for further guidance. Presently KIP participants get educational inputs from the Indian Institute of Public

Administration (IIPA) & Council for Cultural Research & Training (CCRT) in Delhi in the class room sessions The Ministry has also written to State Governments stating that there should be interaction between the participants & students in State Universities during the State leg of the KIP."

33. The Committee are pleased to be informed that the number of editions of the Know India Programme (KIP) has been increased from 4 to 18 per year and that the duration of the programme has also been increased from 21 to 25 days. In order to expand the outreach of the programme, the Ministry has also requested the State Governments for hosting KIPs in respective States. The Committee would want the KIP to be spread out in all the major States covering different regions of the country rather than it being concentrated in only few particular States because it is the considered opinion of the Committee that the Ministry would fail to showcase diversity and plurality of India unless it spreads out the programme to all the regions of the country. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should persistently pursue the proposal of hosting KIPs with the State Governments and find out ways and means for making them stakeholders in the project. The Committee would also like to listen about the action on the part of Ministry on the use of social media to stay in touch with the participants after completion of programmes.

(Recommendation No. 11)

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)

34. The Committee had observed that the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) had been running since 2006-07 and a total of 760 candidates had availed of the scholarship since inception of the scheme. However, the Committee were distressed to note that the number of applications received under the programme was continuously decreasing. For the year 2014-15 only 190 applications had been received from the Diaspora Children which looked quiet inadequate in view of the fact that the Ministry was considering a proposal to increase the number of scholarships from 100 to 200. The Committee had, thereafter, reiterated their earlier recommendation that the Ministry should analyze the reasons for losing the interest by Diaspora children for scholarships offered under this scheme, including the standing and accreditation of the

institutions and the type of courses being offered to the students and also take remedial steps. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry should set up kiosks showcasing the main features of the SPDC during the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) celebrations so that a larger number of Diaspora were acquainted with the scheme. The Committee had also recommended that the Ministry should take steps to improve its spending pattern under the scheme.

35. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs have stated as under:

"The SPDC Scheme is being revised so that scholarships are given to those students who secure admission in reputed colleges/universities across India. This measure may improve the number, quality and quantity of applicants under the scheme. There will be one year holiday for 2015-16 i.e. there would not be any scholarships given for a fresh batch during 2015-16 and the new revised scheme will be implemented from 2016 onwards. However, the existing students (admitted in previous years) would continue for the existing scholarships in view of the commitments already made as per the present scheme. The recommendations of the committee for setting up Kiosks showcasing the main features of the SPDC during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations is noted for future guidance. Grant of scholarship to selected students, is a committed expenditure and the Ministry will disburse this amount to all eligible scholars annually."

36. The Committee have learnt that the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) Scheme is being revised so that the scholarships are given to those students who secure admission in reputed colleges/universities across India. However, the Committee are not sure whether the Ministry would be able to meet the proposed aims and objectives under the revamped scheme? The Committee have serious doubts about the number of NRI/PIO students who would be able to secure admissions to these premier educational institutes on merit, given the differences in curriculum and emphasis in the educational system of various countries. In the opinion of the Committee it would be worthwhile for the Ministry to collect information about the number of NRI/PIO students who apply to appear in the examination for admission in these institutions during last few years and their success rate before it modifies the criterion for the scholarship programme. They also desire the Ministry to maintain the database and update it on a regular interval. The primary objective of the SPDC scheme is to provide educational facilities to the Overseas Indian students by creating

goodwill and it should not amount to mere disbursal of the scholarship. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make a provision for reservation of some seats in these educational institutes for the NRI/PIO students under the revamped scheme.

(Recommendation No. 12)

Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre

37. The Committee were aware that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had set up an Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) as a not-for-profit trust in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Centre is a 'one-stop shop' and seeks to serve the interests of the Overseas Indian Community and has the mandate to cover areas of Investment Facilitation and Knowledge Networking. The Committee were pleased to note that OIFC had been successful in organizing two economic engagement meeting with the Indian Diaspora in Bahrain and London where more than 500 participants were enrolled. The Committee, however, felt that a lot had to be done in order to increase the outreach of the Centre with an objective to attract more and more investments from the Diaspora to India. The Committee had, therefore, strongly recommended that OIFC should also take immediate steps to widely publicize the 'Make in India' programme of the Government to the Diaspora. The Committee had also hoped that the lower allocation for the year 2015-16 would not be a hurdle in running the Centre and that it was in line with the original mandate of OIFC to move gradually to a self-sustaining business model. The Committee had also wanted to be apprised about the impact of the new model on the functioning of OIFC.

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

"In 2015-16 the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre will facilitate a sustained and proactive engagement of the overseas Indians with the Indian economy, through some new programmes and initiatives; and through active engagement with the State Governments to offer their investment projects to the Overseas Indians. The new Programmes & Initiatives include :

- Organising "Investor Connect meets" in select foreign countries with prominent overseas Indians; Indian Diaspora corporate leaders and decision makers to focus their attention on the Indian market.
- Organizing visits to India by business delegations led by overseas Indians.
- Know Indian Economy programme to provide young Diaspora Entrepreneurs an insight into the Indian economy, market and business environment, in partnership with a business School in India.

- India Corporate Internship programme for senior level students of Indian-origin in MBA, Science & Technology courses, to provide them an opportunity of work experience in India's premier corporate organizations.
2. While OIFC was expected to move towards self-sustainability over a period of time, the Governing Council of OIFC recommended in July 2015 that given OIFC's role and scope of activities under the Action Plan for 2015-16, the Government would have to continue its support to OIFC with adequate budget allocation to enable outreach events outside India, and seek participation of overseas Indians in the new initiatives.
 3. In order to promote the 'Make in India' programme of the Government, OIFC would supplement the efforts of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry by working with "Invest India" a body set-up the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and FICCI to promote Make in India."

39. The Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) has a mandate to guide the Overseas Indians for finding better investment avenues in India and the Committee are pleased to note that the Centre has expanded the scope of its activities to reach out to a larger number of Overseas Indians. Towards this end, the OIFC had organized two economic engagement meetings with the Indian Diaspora in Bahrain and London where more than 500 participants were enrolled. The Committee would desire that more number of such economic engagement meetings should be held in other parts of the world also. The Committee are of a considered opinion that OIFC can play a stellar role in popularizing 'Make in India' programme of the Government and a lot of funds and planning would be required for this purpose. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the capacity of OIFC should be suitably enhanced and the Government should continue to provide budgetary support to the Centre until it is able to shift to a self-sustaining business model.

(Recommendation No. 13)

Overseas Indian Centres

40. The Committee had understood that the aim of the Overseas Indian Centres was to extend a host of counselling services to Overseas Indian workers and towards that end the centres in Abu Dhabi, Kuala Lumpur and Washington had been opened. But the Committee had confirmed

information that even those three centres were not working effectively. Secretary, MOIA had also accepted the position and has underlined the reason for that as lack of clear mandate for those offices. Moreover, the Ministry also had no information about the exact number of workers benefitted through those centres. The Committee had, thereafter, desired that the Ministry should immediately work out a clear and unambiguous mandate for those centres by holding consultations with Cabinet Secretariat / other stakeholder Ministries as well as asking the NRI beneficiaries themselves. The Committee also felt that those centres have been instrumental in engaging and helping the Overseas Indian Community and therefore, desired that more such Centres should be opened particularly in the countries with significant Diaspora population.

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

"The Committee's recommendations have been noted for future guidance. Further steps would be taken in consultation with the stakeholders concerned."

42. The Committee had recommended that a clear mandate for the Overseas Indian Centres should be worked out and more such Centres should be opened. The Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry has simply noted the recommendation for future guidance and has not yet initiated any concrete action in this direction. With the surge in number of Overseas Indians and availability of exact data about them, there is now a very strong ground for the expansion and unhindered working of these Centres in order to give them assistance and timely relief. By not expeditiously acting on the recommendation of the Committee the Ministry has deprived the Overseas Indians of critical assistance in certain countries and any further delay on the matter would not be warranted. The Committee would, therefore, strongly reiterate that the Ministry should urgently work out a clear and unambiguous mandate for these Centres and open more such Centres particularly in the countries with significant Diaspora population.

(Recommendation No. 14)

The Swarnaprasava Yojana/ Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana

43. The Committee had observed that the Swarnaprasava Yojana was an ambitious programme of the Ministry to impart skill development for overseas employment to the Indian youth during the 12th Five Year Plan. The scheme had been renamed as 'Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana'. The Plan Scheme seeks to adhere to the broad objectives of skill development in India, as envisioned in the National Skill Development Policy, 2009 as the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had been identified to train 5 million people by 2022 under this policy. For the 12th Five year Plan the total project cost envisaged was Rs. 137 crore and during the five years 2.08 lakh youth were to be trained under the scheme with the Government incurring a cost of Rs. 7500 per person for training. The Committee were unhappy to note that the Ministry had not made any progress in implementation of the scheme. The Committee further noted that the Pilot Project titled "Skill Development Initiative for Potential Migrants from North Eastern States of India" was launched by the Ministry in 2011 which had failed to achieve its targets in terms of training for requisite skills for overseas employment and for placement for overseas employment. It appeared that the Ministry would be missing the target for training youth under the scheme. In fact, the Ministry could not spend a single Rupee during 2014-15.

The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should take lessons from the failure of the pilot project and work out a joint strategy along with specially created Ministry i.e. the Ministry of skill Development and Entrepreneurship, towards the end objective of providing better Overseas employment opportunities under the scheme by utilizing the allocated plan funds during remaining two years of the current Plan period.

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

"All recommendations of the Standing Committee on External Affairs have been noted for guidance. The Ministry is taking urgent steps for implementation of the Scheme expeditiously in consultation with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship."

45. The Committee while criticizing the Ministry for its failure to implement the Swarnaprasava Yojana/Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana had recommended that it should take lessons from its past failures and work out a joint strategy along with the Ministry of Skill

Development and Entrepreneurship. However, the Committee are concerned to note that the Ministry has not bothered to take any credible steps beyond noting it down for guidance. If the Ministry cannot execute the recommendations of the Committee in letter and spirit then no purpose would be served with the task of noting them down. In the case of the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the critical time had been allowed to go waste by the Ministry as the scheme is yet to take-off. With barely one and a half years of the plan period still remaining, what credible results can be gained from the scheme is anybody's guess? The Committee would, therefore, desire that the Ministry should take urgent steps for the implementation of the Project and the problems faced in implementation should be communicated to the Committee at the action taken stage.

(Recommendation No. 15)

Emigration Management Bill

46. The Committee were hopeful that the Draft Emigration Management Bill would overhaul the basic architecture of emigration in the country. The Committee had welcomed that initiative of the Ministry which was long overdue in view of the significant transformations in the processes and dynamics of emigration in the recent past. The Committee had understood that the Draft Bill had undergone consultations with other Ministries/ Agencies to arrive at a consensus. The Committee were happy to note that the draft of the Bill was at finalization stage. The Committee had, therefore, urged the Ministry to expedite the inter-Ministerial consultations once the final draft was ready and to ensure that the Bill was discussed with the Committee before being introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

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

"The draft of the Emigration Management Bill is at final stage however before it is sent for consultations with other Ministries/ Agencies, an overview has to be taken by the Ministry afresh.

The recommendation of the Committee for discussion of Bill with it before it is introduced in the Parliament has been noted."

48. The Committee are dismayed to note that the introduction of the Emigration Management Bill in Parliament has been long delayed and now the Ministry has once again failed to adhere to the deadline of introducing it during the monsoon session of the Parliament. The Committee are aware that Inter-Ministerial consultations on this matter were already completed once but now the Ministry has stated that before it is sent for consultations with other Ministries/Agencies, an overview has to be taken by the Ministry afresh. The Committee have failed to understand as to how many times the Bill has to be renewed and discussed? The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to fix a time frame to complete the consultation process and introduce the Bill in the next session of the Parliament positively.

(Recommendation No. 16)

Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council (PMGAC)

49. The Committee had welcomed the initiative of the Government to constitute the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of people of Indian origin (PMGAC-OI) which is a platform for the Prime Minister to draw upon the experience, knowledge and wisdom of eminent people of Indian Origin in diverse fields from across the world. The Committee were hopeful that such a body would be instrumental in enhancing the sense of participation within the Diaspora and in the long run its recommendations could act as guiding light for the Ministry in formulating and implementing its policies and programmes. The Committee had also recommended that the Membership of the Council should truly reflect the diversity of Indian Diaspora by incorporating eminent persons representing various fields and geographical regions and their recommendations should be taken seriously to enhance and strengthen the engagement and participation of Overseas Indians.

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

"The recommendation of the Standing Committee that PMGAC should truly represent the diversity of the Indian Diaspora and incorporate eminent persons representing various fields and geographical areas is noted for future guidance.

The recommendation of the PMGAC has guided the Ministry in its introduction of several schemes/initiatives for diaspora engagement. These include (i) setting up of

the India Development Foundation for Overseas Indian (IDF. OI) for strengthening the institutional mechanism for promoting philanthropy and sound development in India by the Overseas Indian Community (ii) Creating data base of Overseas Indian by getting data from Indian Missions abroad (iii) Having a special session on Youth during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to forum on the changes taking place in the second & third generation of the Diasporas & other issues (iv) holding a Regional PBD in Sydney in November 2013 and (v) Study India Programme."

51. The PMGAC was mandated to play a stellar role in drawing upon the experience, knowledge and wisdom of eminent persons of Indian origin in diverse fields for a better two way engagement between India and Overseas Indians. The Committee also understand the contribution of the Council in guiding the Ministry in its introduction of several schemes/initiatives for Diaspora engagement in the past. The Ministry has simply noted their recommendation to make the Council a true platform represented by eminent persons from various fields and geographical areas. It appears that the Ministry has stopped taking interest in the activities of the Council as it is still to be reconstituted. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the PMGAC should be reconstituted without any further delay under intimation to the Committee.

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 the BE stage for the year 2014-15 was Rs. 148.98 crore which was reduced to Rs. 99.00 crore at the RE stage. The Committee had also noted that the actual utilization during 2014-15 is only Rs. 62.33 crore and it could not spend Rs. 36.67 crore and once again had failed badly to utilize even the RE allocation. The Committee were also not convinced with the arguments put forth by the Ministry that the major part of the allocation is incurred in the last quarter because the expenditure for flagship events like Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD), Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Know India Programme (KIP) and Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCD) was booked in the last quarter. The Committee had noted that during 2014-15 the Ministry propose to utilize Rs.54.16 crore (anticipated) during the last quarter. However the total expenditure envisaged under those aforementioned heads would add upto Rs. 26.15 crore only. The Committee, therefore, were critical of the poor and uneven expenditure pattern of the Ministry continuously for the last several years. This trend creates an impression that everything is not going well in the Ministry and the Financial Management requires significant improvement. In those circumstances, the view is gaining ground that perhaps the Ministry has failed to justify its creation and fulfill the objectives for which it was created. The Committee, therefore, had desired that the Ministry should improve its working and make all possible efforts to utilize the allocated budget during 2015-16 through proper planning and regular monitoring. Moreover, The Committee were of a firm view that the Ministry should spread their expenditure pattern more evenly even within the constraints of organizing those events towards the end of the year.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation is related to expenditure pattern under various heads in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. Several factors during the last financial year resulted in reduced expenditure during the said financial year. However, this Ministry is making concerted efforts to utilize the allocated budget for the year 2015-16 in full.

The expenditure pattern during the current financial year shows encouraging trend. For example, Rs 7.05 crores has already been utilized under PBD head against BE of Rs 7.53 crores (i.e. 93% utilization) The Ministry has also moved re-appropriation proposal for Rs.6.80 crores to clear pending bills relating to PBD bills of 2014-15.

IDF –OI and OIFC are reorienting themselves and will be seeking a more sustained and pro-active engagement with the Indian Diaspora. Given their expanded scope of activities for 2015-16, it is envisaged that they will not only spend the funds that are allocated to them at BE 2015-16 stage, but also need additional allocations.

MOIA is planning to launch its media campaign for 2015-16 on the theme of safe and legal migration with an estimated expenditure of about Rs 8crores in media campaign on TV and Radio by December 2015. It is expected that additional funds may be needed for the media campaign at RE 2015-16 stage.

(F.No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 2)

The Committee also note that the budgetary allocation of the Ministry for the year 2015-16 (BE) has been reduced to Rs. 118.17 crore from that of Rs. 148.98 crore during 2014-15(BE). Such a reduction on a BE to BE basis has not taken place during the last five years and the Ministry has failed to give convincing reasons for the budgetary cuts it had to endure. The Committee consider that poor spending trend of the Ministry during 2014-15 would have been the most important reason for lower allocation during 2015-16, as the Ministry had managed to spend only Rs. 44.84 crore till December, 2014 against the reduced RE of Rs. 99.00 crore. The Committee note that the Ministry has promised to implement various schemes vigorously during the Financial year 2015-16 but would like to caution that if the Ministry continues the same trend, it may not be able to get required funds even at supplementary Demands for Grants. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should substantially improve its spending mechanism and try to prove their commitment towards the implementation of schemes relating to the welfare of the Diaspora and emigrant workers so that they may be able to get additional funds at the RE stage during the current financial year.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation is related to expenditure pattern under various heads in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The Committee's recommendation that the Ministry should substantially improve its spending mechanism, has been noted in MOIA for guidance. Current status in this regard is briefly mentioned in the reply to Recommendation No. 1.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 3)

The Ministry was allocated a sum of Rs. 40.36 crore during 2014-15 (BE) for expenditure on salaries, wages, office expenses, rents and automation of the Secretariat and field offices of POEs. The Committee had taken a serious view to note that for those routine office expenses, the allocation was reduced to Rs. 28.73 crore at the RE stage and that regrettably the Ministry was able to spend only Rs. 15.59 crore till the end of third quarter of the year under this head, and they propose to spend Rs. 13.14 crore during the last quarter of the year. This clearly shows that the Ministry is not even able to spend the allocation made for administrative expenses of the Ministry. This reveals a major administrative failure of the Ministry and the Committee find it as another example of lopsided spending pattern of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, had not approved of such expenditure trend even for routine administrative purposes and recommended that the Ministry should take all initiatives to maintain a uniform spending pattern across each quarter under this head, as the sub-heads here are not subject to fluctuating expenditure.

Reply of the Government

Out of a sum of Rs. 40.36 crores during 2014-15 under Establishment, Rs. 12.83 crores was allocated for e-Migrate project under the Head Information Technology (Office Expenditure). More than 79% of the total savings made under the Secretariat/Establishment head has been on account of delay in e-Migrate project going live. In addition, savings have been on account of reduced spending on overtime allowance (66%), medical expenses (44%), domestic travel (44%), foreign travel (50%). The Ministry has noted the recommendation as regard to taking initiative and maintaining uniform spending pattern across each quarter for the various Heads under the Secretariat/Establishment head.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 6)

The Committee note that after the decentralization of work relating to printing and dispatch of the OCI cards there will be no role of MOIA in the Overseas Citizenship of India Scheme at all. The Committee are not in agreement with such decision where the Ministry has been kept devoid of any role in such an important matter relating to Indian Diaspora. The Committee feel strongly that with such decision the country may lose the goodwill which we expect from the Indian Diaspora. The Committee have clear view that without the involvement of MOIA in the scheme, the engagement with the Diaspora and earning their goodwill may not be possible. The Committee,

therefore, desire a stronger and defined role of the Ministry in this scheme particularly in the scrutiny part and implementation of the scheme as a whole.

The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry has already started the exercise of updating the data of NRIs and PIOs from different parts of the world. It had been felt by the Committee that the absence of such a comprehensive data base is a major lacuna in the framing of policies on various issues affecting the Diaspora and in implementing the same. The Committee would therefore recommend that this exercise should be expedited and concluded at the earliest and the Committee should also be apprised about the same.

Reply of the Government

The decision to decentralize the printing and dispatch of OCI documents to Indian Missions/ Posts abroad/MEA has been taken with a view to reduce the time line involved in the issue of OCI Cards. Government aims to reduce this period to 7 days and this can be possible only if the card is printed in the Missions/Posts itself. However, notwithstanding transfer of the printing work to MEA, this Ministry will continue to discharge other functions entrusted to it under the Allocation of Business Rules, with regard to Overseas Citizen of India card holders.

The MOIA has already completed the exercise to compile data of NRI and PIO population in 206 countries/independent territories and the revised list has been uploaded on MOIA's website. The population of overseas Indians is presently over 28 million of which around 60% comprise Persons of Indian origin (PIO). Revision of this data will be undertaken from time to time.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 9)

The Committee note the Mahatma Gandhi PravasiSurakshaYojana (MGPSY) was launched in May, 2012 and is already available for workers to subscribe across India and UAE. The Committee however, are constrained to note that the Ministry has so far been successful in enrolling only 1265 workers under the scheme. Further, the Ministry has not made any budgetary allocation for the scheme for 2015-16 on the ground that it is considering a revamp of the scheme to make it a Comprehensive Social Security Scheme for Overseas Indian Workers. The Committee are of the considered view that even when the revamp of the scheme is being considered, it should not have come in the way for allocating sufficient funds to the scheme. Not allocating any fund is like halting a scheme and preventing the new subscribers joining the scheme till it is revamped. The

Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should come out with the revamped scheme and till then new interested subscribers should be enrolled in the existing scheme and contribution of Government should continue for old as well as new subscribers. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should augment its media campaign and other efforts in order to make the scheme attractive to ECR and Non-ECR workers alike.

Reply of the Government

The account Head for MGPSY is as under:

Demand No. 70-Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs,

2061- External Affairs (Major Head)

00.800 – Other Expenditure (Minor Head)

03 – Other Schemes (Sub Head),

00.03 – Other Items.

03.03.50 – Other Charges (Object Head)

under which Rs. 1, 50,00,000 in BE 2015-16.

Steps are being undertaken to revamp the MGPSY scheme. Secretary, MOIA has already held two meetings with the stakeholders of MGPSY to discuss the issues arising in the implementation of the scheme. An important issue is that the ‘NPS lite’ scheme, which was a component of MGPSY, has been discontinued. This has been replaced with the Atal Pension Yojana (APS) which has certain different scheme inclusions, eligibility and implementation modalities.

The suggestion regarding creating awareness on the scheme is noted for guidance.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 11)

The Committee observe that the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) has been running since 2006-07 and a total of 760 candidates have availed of the scholarship since inception of the scheme. However, the Committee are distressed to note that the number of applications received under the programme is continuously decreasing. For the year 2014-15 only 190 applications have been received from the Diaspora Children which looks quiet inadequate in view of the fact that the Ministry is considering a proposal to increase the number of scholarships from 100 to 200. The Committee would therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Ministry should analyze the reasons for losing the interest by Diaspora children for scholarships offered under this scheme, including the standing and accreditation of the institutions and the type of courses being offered to the students and also take remedial steps. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should set up kiosks showcasing the main features of the SPDC

during the PravasiBhartiya Divas (PBD) celebrations so that a larger number of Diaspora are acquainted with the scheme. The Committee would also recommend that the Ministry should take steps to improve its spending pattern under the scheme.

Reply of the Government

The SPDC Scheme is being revised so that scholarships are given to those students who secure admission in reputed colleges/universities across India. This measure may improve the number, quality and quantity of applicants under the scheme. There will be one year holiday for 2015-16 i.e. there would not be any scholarships given for a fresh batch during 2015-16 and the new revised scheme will be implemented from 2016 onwards. However, the existing students (admitted in previous years) would continue for the existing scholarships in view of the commitments already made as per the present scheme. The recommendations of the committee for setting up Kiosks showcasing the main features of the SPDC during the PravasiBharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations is noted for future guidance. Grant of scholarship to selected students, is a committed expenditure and the Ministry will disburse this amount to all eligible scholars annually.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-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. 4)

The Committee observe that the amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was allocated to the Ministry during 2014-15 under the sub-head 'International Conferences/ Meetings' and it was reduced to Rs. 10.00 lakh at RE stage. The Ministry has reasoned that it could not organize any Conference/ Meeting during the year, therefore, funds could not be spent for that purpose. The Committee strongly criticize the Ministry for not organizing any Meeting or Conference related to Diaspora engagement and discussions with counterparts from the foreign countries and also for finalization of Agreements/ MOUs during the year. The Committee also note that for the year 2015-16, the Ministry has got an allocation of Rs. 0.76 crore, but there is no advance planning of Conferences/ Meetings also. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should conduct advance planning for all the Conferences/ Meetings to be organized during the financial year alongwith the proposed expenditure well in advance, keeping in view its requirements of Diaspora engagements and holding discussions with its foreign counterparts to avoid such failure in organizing any Conference/ Meeting during 2015-16 also.

Reply of the Government

This recommendation is related to the International Seminars/ Conferences and planning the proposed expenditure well in advance. The Committee's recommendation regarding drawing up a schedule of seminars/conferences to be organised during the financial year are noted for future guidance.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 13)

The Committee understand that the aim of the Overseas Indian Centres is to extend a host of counselling services to Overseas Indian workers and towards this end the centres in Abu Dhabi, Kuala Lumpur and Washington have been opened. But the Committee have confirmed information that even these three centres are not working effectively. Secretary, MOIA has also accepted the position and has underlined the reason for this as lack of clear mandate for these offices. Moreover, the Ministry also has no information about the exact number of workers benefitted

through these centres. The Committee would therefore, desire that the Ministry should immediately work out a clear and unambiguous mandate for these centres by holding consultations with Cabinet Secretariat / other stakeholder Ministries as well as asking the NRI beneficiaries themselves. The Committee also feel that these centres have been instrumental in engaging and helping the Overseas Indian Community and therefore, desire that more such Centres should be opened particularly in the countries with significant Diaspora population.

Reply of the Government

The Committee's recommendations have been noted for future guidance. Further steps would be taken in consultation with the stakeholders concerned.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 14)

The Committee observe that the SwarnaPravasYojana is an ambitious programme of the Ministry to impart skill development for overseas employment to the Indian youth during the 12th Five Year Plan. The scheme has now been renamed as 'PravasiKaushalVikasYojana'. The Plan Scheme seeks to adhere to the broad objectives of skill development in India, as envisioned in the National Skill Development Policy, 2009 as the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has been identified to train 5 million people by 2022 under this policy. For the 12th Five year Plan the total project cost envisaged is Rs. 137 crore and during the five years 2.08 lakh youth are to be trained under the scheme with the Government incurring a cost of Rs. 7500 per person for training. The Committee are unhappy to note that the Ministry has not made any progress in implementation of the scheme. The Committee further note that the Pilot Project titled "Skill Development Initiative for Potential Migrants from North Eastern States of India" was launched by the Ministry in 2011 which had failed to achieve its targets in terms of training for requisite skills for overseas employment and for placement for overseas employment. Now it appears that the Ministry would be missing the target for training youth under the scheme. In fact, the Ministry could not spend a single Rupee during 2014-15.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take lessons from the failure of the pilot project and work out a joint strategy along with specially created Ministry i.e. the Ministry of skill Development and Entrepreneurship, towards the end objective of providing better Overseas employment opportunities under the scheme by utilizing the allocated plan funds during remaining two years of the current Plan period.

Reply of the Government

All recommendations of the Standing Committee on External Affairs have been noted for guidance. The Ministry is taking urgent steps for implementation of the Scheme expeditiously in consultation with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 16)

The Committee welcome the initiative of the Government to constitute the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of people of Indian origin (PMGAC-OI) which is a platform for the Prime Minister to draw upon the experience, knowledge and wisdom of eminent people of Indian Origin in diverse fields from across the world. The Committee are hopeful that such a body will be instrumental in enhancing the sense of participation within the Diaspora and in the long run its recommendations could act as guiding light for the Ministry in formulating and implementing its policies and programmes. The Committee also recommend that the Membership of the Council should truly reflect the diversity of Indian Diaspora by incorporating eminent persons representing various fields and geographical regions and their recommendations should be taken seriously to enhance and strengthen the engagement and participation of Overseas Indians.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Standing Committee that PMGAC should truly represent the diversity of the Indian Diaspora and incorporate eminent persons representing various fields and geographical areas is noted for future guidance.

The recommendation of the PMGAC has guided the Ministry in its introduction of several schemes/initiatives for diaspora engagement. These include (i) setting up of the India Development Foundation for Overseas Indian (IDF. OI) for strengthening the institutional mechanism for promoting philanthropy and sound development in India by the Overseas Indian Community (ii) Creating data base of Overseas Indian by getting data from Indian Missions abroad (iii) Having a special session on Youth during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to forum on the changes taking place in the second & third generation of the Diasporas & other issues (iv) holding a Regional PBD in Sydney in November 2013 and (v) Study India Programme.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

CHAPTER V

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

(Recommendation No. 5)

The Committee observe that the project for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi has been delayed inordinately. The previously announced target date for completion was the PravasiBhartiya Divas, 2015 and the same could not be adhered to. Now the Ministry plans to get the building inaugurated on 15 August, 2015 after finishing the work of furnishing and finishing. The Committee now hope that the Ministry would undertake all out efforts in order to ensure that the project is finished well within the new deadline. In the Committee's view it would not be a tall order for the Ministry to accomplish this mission as in the part it was held up due to lack of funds and this time the Ministry has evinced satisfaction at the availability of funds at its disposal for the completion of work.

Reply of the Government

Efforts are being made to complete the work of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra so that it is ready for inauguration as early as possible. The construction works is nearly complete and we are taking steps to make the building functional.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 7)

The Committee are aware that the Ministry has been running an awareness campaign since 2007 in order to create wider awareness among the general public on a variety of issues related to legal, safe and orderly migration. But, the Committee are not impressed at all with the justification given by the Ministry that during the whole year 2014-15 the Ministry did not undertake any media awareness campaign as it was reviewing the campaign in order to make it more effective. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should proceed to conduct a yearlong effective media campaign with the defined objectives of creating awareness about legal, safe and orderly migration and cautioning people about illegal practices being faced by migrants including harassment and desertion by NRI spouses. In this regard, the Committee would specifically desire that the nature of assistance being provided to deserted/abandoned NRI wives should be modified and advertised widely. The Committee also recommend that the amount of financial assistance for

such suffering women should also be enhanced and they should be suitably educated about such enhancements. The Committee are also aware that social media has emerged as a very viable platform for public exchange today and its rising use among the new generation is beyond dispute. The messages floated on social media are more amenable to easy dissemination and recall.

The Committee would, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should come out with a blueprint to make extensive use of social media tools in this regard to benefit the would-be emigrants and to educate them about legal and safe migration. The Committee would desire that the Ministry should commission an independent study to assess the impact of these media campaigns and to undertake reviews of the broader goals from time to time. The Committee also desire that these media campaigns should be undertaken in Hindi and other prominent regional languages to increase the outreach of these campaigns to the wider public.

Reply of the Government

For Financial Year 2015-16 Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has an allocation of Rs. 9.50 crore for Awareness Campaign/Media Plan.

2. The Ministry has reviewed and re-oriented media awareness plan of the Ministry and for 2015-16, the Ministry proposes to undertake a media campaign in Television, Radio including in regional languages especially in states where the problems pertaining to migrant workers are most prevalent.

3. The campaign for 2015-16 in multiple media is proposed to be conducted on the theme of Safe and Legal migration of the Indian Migrant workers to foreign countries for employment and other important issues.

4. The campaign will enhance awareness about the precautions to be taken before migrating, ways of ensuring safe and legal migration and also inform about MOIA's Toll-free help lines which provide information and advice to intending migrants.

5. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs proposes to organize a workshop in New Delhi on issues faced by Indian Women married to NRIs/PIOs, in coordination with the National Commission for Women and the NRI Departments/ Commissions of concerned State Governments.

6. MOIA has a scheme for providing legal and financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) overseas spouse. MOIA has taken note of the committee's recommendation that there should be review of the scheme for

future guidance.

7. Ministry has also taken note of the committee's recommendation that Ministry should make extensive use of social media tools in our media awareness campaign; and that an independent study could be constituted to study the impact of this Ministry's media campaign for future guidance.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 8)

The Committee note that the Ministry has failed to spend even a small amount of Rs. 5 crore allocated during 2014-15 for a very important scheme for Promotion of Cultural ties with Diaspora. The Committee understand that culture and language play a major role in the lives of the people and communities and it is the common thread which can bind people belonging to otherwise diverse persuasions. But it seems, the Ministry has no planning to foster cultural ties with the Diaspora. The Committee are happy to note that the allocation for the year 2015-16 under the scheme has been enhanced by the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should prepare a set of programmes through which they can help reinforce the cultural identity of People of Indian Origin in meaningful ways. In this regard, the Committee would also suggest that the Ministry should undertake their programmes in active collaboration with India Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) by using their physical presence in a number of countries and engagement in similar activities.

The Committee would also like to suggest that the Ministry should explore the idea of opening stalls at major Airports of the world showcasing and promoting Indian culture to a larger population including the Diaspora. The Committee are of the view that these stalls may have the potential to emerge as major points of engagement with the Diaspora in the long run.

Reply of the Government

A substantial part of the allotment under the Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora was for the Ghadar Memorial Project in San Francisco. Doubts had arisen on the cost proposed for renovation of the memorial. There are several issues which require consultation with the Overseas Indian Communities at the local level. This is being planned. The initial estimate received for renovation was approximately Rs.37 Crores.

Further, ICCR has now been requested to identify the scope of various joint activities through which MOIA could help reinforce the cultural identity of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in meaningful ways. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also been addressed to understand the feasibility of opening stalls at major airports of the world for sharing & promoting Indian Culture to a larger population including the Indian Diaspora.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 10)

The Committee observe that the Know India Programme (KIP) is an important vehicle for an engagement with the next generation of the Indian Diaspora and for fostering their close bond with contemporary India. The Ministry had been able to organize five such programmes during the year 2014-15. The Committee are further pleased to note that the Ministry has enhanced the budgetary allocation for the programme from Rs. 4.50 crore during 2014-15 to Rs. 8.00 crore for 2015-16 and is also considering an increase in the number of participants and enriching its content. The Committee are of the opinion that the platform of KIP offers the Government a very good opportunity to engage with the new generation of Diaspora. KIP can prove to be an effective vehicle for continuous engagement with the next generation of influential diaspora as many of them will become opinion makers in their respective countries in the coming years. Therefore, the Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry should use innovative communication tools like social media to stay in touch with the participants of the programmes once the programme comes to an end and the participants return to their respective countries.

The Committee would also recommend that the Ministry should make the programme more broad based so as to include more number of States in its programme. It should be ensured that the programme reflects the diversity of the country and not a partial impression. Care should be taken to enhance the educational aspects of the KIP so that it does not get reduced to a mere tourist programme.

Reply of the Government

Know India Programme (KIP), an engagement programme with the next generation of the Indian Diaspora and for fostering their close bond with contemporary India is being revised. It has been decided to increase the no. of editions of the programme from 4 to 18 per year and the duration of the programme has also been increased from 21 to 25 days. State Governments have

also been requested for hosting KIPs in their states. The Committee's recommendation for use of social media to stay in touch with the participants once the Programmes are over, is noted for further guidance. Presently KIP participants get educational inputs from the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) & Council for Cultural Research & Training (CCRT) in Delhi in the class room sessions The Ministry has also written to State Governments stating that there should be interaction between the participants & students in State Universities during the State leg of the KIP.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 12)

The Committee are aware that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up an Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) as a not-for-profit trust in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Centre is a 'one-stop shop' and seeks to serve the interests of the Overseas Indian Community and has the mandate to cover areas of Investment Facilitation and Knowledge Networking. The Committee are pleased to note that OIFC has been successful in organizing two economic engagement meeting with the Indian Diaspora in Bahrain and London where more than 500 participants were enrolled. The Committee, however, feel that a lot has to be done in order to increase the outreach of the Centre with an objective to attract more and more investments from the Diaspora to India. The Committee would therefore, strongly recommend that OIFC should also take immediate steps to widely publicize the 'Make of India' programme of the Government to the Diaspora. The Committee would also hope that the lower allocation for the year 2015-16 will not be a hurdle in running the Centre and that it is in line with the original mandate of OIFC to move gradually to a self-sustaining business model. The Committee would like to be apprised about the impact of the new model on the functioning of OIFC.

Reply of the Government

1. In 2015-16 the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre will facilitate a sustained and proactive engagement of the overseas Indians with the Indian economy, through some new programmes and initiatives; and through active engagement with the State Governments to offer their investment projects to the Overseas Indians. The new Programmes & Initiatives include :

- Organising “Investor Connect meets” in select foreign countries with prominent overseas Indians; Indian Diaspora corporate leaders and decision makers to focus their attention on the Indian market.
- Organizing visits to India by business delegations led by overseas Indians.
- Know Indian Economy programme to provide young Diaspora Entrepreneurs an insight into the Indian economy, market and business environment, in partnership with a business School in India.
- India Corporate Internship programme for senior level students of Indian-origin in MBA, Science & Technology courses, to provide them an opportunity of work experience in India’s premier corporate organizations.

2. While OIFC was expected to move towards self-sustainability over a period of time, the Governing Council of OIFC recommended in July 2015 that given OIFC’s role and scope of activities under the Action Plan for 2015-16, the Government would have to continue its support to OIFC with adequate budget allocation to enable outreach events outside India, and seek participation of overseas Indians in the new initiatives.

3. In order to promote the ‘Make in India’ programme of the Government, OIFC would supplement the efforts of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry by working with “Invest India” a body set-up the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and FICCI to promote Make in India.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

(Recommendation No. 15)

The Committee are hopeful that the Draft Emigration Management Bill will overhaul the basic architecture of emigration in the country. The Committee would like to welcome this initiative of the Ministry which is long overdue in view of the significant transformations in the processes and dynamics of emigration in the recent past. The Committee understand that the Draft Bill had undergone consultations with other Ministries/ Agencies to arrive at a consensus. The Committee are happy to note that the draft of the Bill is at finalization stage. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to expedite the inter-Ministerial consultations once the final draft is ready and to ensure that the Bill is discussed with the Committee before being introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

Reply of the Government

The draft of the Emigration Management Bill is at final stage however before it is sent for consultations with other Ministries/ Agencies, an overview has to be taken by the Ministry afresh.

The recommendation of the Committee for discussion of Bill with it before it is introduced in the Parliament has been noted.

(File No. H-11021/04/2015-P&C)

NEW DELHI
.....November,2015
.....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 20th OCTOBER, 2015**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 20th 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 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) XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX (ii) XXX XXX XXX XXX (iii) Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fifth Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2015-16.

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.

Appendix II

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of Report)

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

(i)	Total Number of Recommendations	16
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations, which have been accepted by the Government. Recommendation Nos. 1,2,3,6,9 and 11	 Total-06
		Percentage: 37.50%
(iii)	Recommendation/Observation which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies. NIL	 Total - 00
(iv)	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which reply of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and require reiteration. Recommendation No. 4,13,14 and 16	 Total- 04
		Percentage: 25%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited. Recommendation Nos. 5,7,8,10,12 and 15	 Total-06
		Percentage: 37.50%