

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3968
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIA
Innocent Shri

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

- (a) the country-wise details of overseas Indians who have been registered as Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) till date;
- (b) the number of OCI applications pending till date and the time-frame by which all Non-Resident Indians are likely to be issued OCI cards; and
- (c) the facilities provided to OCIs at present?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS GENERAL (RETD.) SHRI V.K. SINGH

- (a): A statement is attached.
- (b): Registration of 27,606 OCI applications was pending as on 08.12.2014. These applications are at various stages of processing. Persons of Indian origin who specifically apply are granted OCI registration. Application is not mandatory. Hence no time frame can be indicated by which all PIOs are likely to be issued OCI cards. NRIs are Indian citizens and do not require OCI cards.
- (c): OCIs have been granted the following benefits:-
 - (i) A multiple entry multi-purpose life long visa for visiting India.
 - (ii) Exemption from registration with local police authority for any length of stay in India.
 - (iii) Parity with Non resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of economic, financial and educational fields except in relation to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties. No parity is allowed in the sphere of political rights.
 - (iv) Parity with NRIs in entry fee for visiting national monuments, historical sites, museums, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries as well as in domestic air fares in India.
 - (v) Preference in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children.
 - (vi) Parity with NRIs for practice as doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, advocates, architects and chartered accountants in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts.
 - (vii) Parity with NRIs to appear in AIPMT or such other tests in India to make them eligible for admission in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts.
 - (viii) Permitting OCIs to file an affidavit to declare their address in India, for the purpose of availing services like securing admission of their children to educational institutions in India, obtaining of driving licenses, gas connections, residential telephones and mobile phones, electricity/water connection, etc.