

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3080
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014
OVERSEAS INDIAN ELECTORS
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure laid down for the Overseas Indian Electors (OTEs), Non- Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) to become eligible and exercise their franchise in India;
- (b) whether the Government has received any suggestions/ recommendations to simplify the voting procedure laid down for the OIEs, NRIs and PIO;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon by the Government; and
- (d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

- (a) As per section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, every citizen of India
 - (i) whose name is not included in the electoral roll;
 - (ii) who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country; and
 - (iii) who is absenting from his place of ordinary- residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise outside India (whether temporarily or not), shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located, and every person so registered shall, if otherwise eligible to exercise his franchise, be allowed to vote at an election in the constituency, subject to fulfillment of other conditions specified in the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
- (b) to (d): A Committee appointed by the Election Commission has recommended (i) `e-Postal Ballot System¹ which envisages electronic transmission of the blank postal paper to the registered NRI voters and thereafter return of the same by normal post and (ii) proxy voting` which would allow such voters to appoint a proxy after following certain formalities and exercise his franchise through the medium of the proxy so appointed. The matter is under examination.