

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3229

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

OCI CARDS

Charitra Shri Ram;Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards issued during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether there are reports that the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) are facing difficulties in getting PIO and OCI cards abroad;
- (c) if so, whether there is any proposal to simplify the procedures to issue the said cards; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) The details of OCI cards issued during the last three years and the current year, are as under:

Year	Total number of OCI cards
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2012	2,34,418
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2013	2,53,632
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2014	2,20,434
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2015	39,863
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(as on

11.03.2015)

(b) to (d) Process of streamlining and simplification with respect to issue of OCI cards is a continuous process. Recently the promulgation of Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 on 06.01.2015 was a big step towards this. For avoiding prevailing confusion and giving more benefits to applicants, Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme has been withdrawn with effect from 09.01.2015 and it is also notified that all existing PIO cards are deemed to be Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards. Simultaneously, a mechanism has been activated for replacing PIO cards with OCI cards free of cost. The applicants can apply for OCI card through MHA's website: <https://passport.gov.in/oci>