

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:419
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015
Voting Rights to Overseas Indians
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

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

- (a) whether the new regulatory measures imposed by the Government to prevent malpractices in overseas placement have adversely affected the recruitment to the Gulf countries from India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government has taken the matter with Gulf countries and finalised the modalities, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government noted the difficulties being faced by nurses by the decision to make emigration clearance mandatory; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government?

Answer

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

- (a) Under Section 20A of the Representation of People Act, 1950 and rules made thereunder every citizen of India-(a) whose name is not included in the electoral roll; (b) who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country; and (c) who is absent from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise outside India (whether temporarily or otherwise), is entitled to have his/her name registered in the electoral roll as "Overseas electors" in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport, is located.
- (b)&(c) Government is considering to allow the options of voting to overseas electors in the form of (i) 'e-Postal Ballot System' which envisages making available blank postal ballot electronically to the NRI Voter and thereafter return 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.
- (d)&(e) Since the proposal requires consideration and approval by both Houses of the Parliament, no time frame can be indicated.