

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4620
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
OVERSEAS INDIAN CENTRES
Sathyabama Smt. V.

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

- (a) the country-wise details of Overseas Indian Centres functioning across the globe;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans of setting up new Overseas Indian Centres across the globe;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether these centres have been able to resolve issues faced by the Indians living abroad; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the extent of success achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Presently, there are three Overseas Indian Centres located at Abu Dhabi (UAE), Washington (USA) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).

(b) & (c) Possibilities are being explored for setting up more Overseas Indian Centers in large Diaspora countries.

(d) & (e): These Centers have been successful in helping overseas Indians and resolving their problems. The Washington Centre has helped in extending support to Indian women deserted by their overseas spouses and in publicizing MOIA's flagship events like Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) etc. amongst Indian community besides promoting community related events.

The Centers at Abu Dhabi and Kuala Lumpur have primarily helped Indian workers/immigrants in UAE and Malaysia by providing them timely legal, financial and consular assistance and where necessary, by taking up issues relating to them with local Government authorities and resolving them.

The Counsellor OIC in UAE has looked after operations of the Indian Workers Resource Center (IWRC), Dubai, which gives legal, financial and psychological counseling. During the past two years, more than 2700 visitors have visited IWRC and more than 30,000 calls were attended to by it.