

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:972
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Kerala to provide legal assistance for Indians trapped in lawsuits abroad;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the details of the provisions likely to be laid down for speedy resolution of their issues?

Answer

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

- (a) Government had received a proposal dated 31` December, 2011 from the Non-Resident Keralites` Affairs (NORKA) Department, Government of Kerala regarding placing of funds with Indian Missions/Posts abroad to be spent for extending legal assistance to needy Non-Resident Keralites.
- (b) In response to the representation of Non-Resident Keralites` Affairs (NORKA) Department, Government of Kerala, they had been advised by the Government that the expenditure incurred on the legal assistance under this fund cannot be restricted to Non-Resident Keralites but made available to any citizen of India who is deserving of such assistance.
- (c) Subsequently, the Government of Kerala had sanctioned its own scheme, the Pravasi Legal Aid Cell in 2014 to make available legal help, advice and representation in Gulf countries to Non-Resident Keralites. The Scheme does not contemplate placement of Kerala Government funds with Indian Missions/Posts abroad. In view of the above, the question does not arise.