

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1622
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Puttaraju Shri C.S.

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

- (a) whether Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) has allegedly failed in attracting expertise and investment from Indians abroad through its flagship annual event;
- (b) if not, the details of the investments received during PBD during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the number of Non-resident Indian (NRI) tourists who visited India during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) the number of NRIs who participated in the various programmes conducted by the Government for NRIs;
- (e) whether the Government has launched/proposed to launch any scheme to attract more investment and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of policy, if any, drafted by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Conventions provide a platform for exchange of views and networking to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) on matters of common interest. These Conventions assist the Government of India to better understand the expectations of the Overseas Indians from the land of their ancestors and to acknowledge their role in India's all round development and its efforts to acquire its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Twelve years since its inception, the PBD has grown to become a vital platform for evolving ideas, identifying actions, and creating opportunities for the interaction of the home country and its overseas citizens'. It is also a forum where the Government of India and various State Governments showcase investment opportunities and potential in various sectors. Separate sessions are held by State Governments in this regard to inter alia interact with potential investors. As regards expertise, usually some sessions also touch up on Science and Technology, Skill Development and Innovations.

(b): In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The number of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) tourists visited India during the last three years, year-wise are stated below:

Year Tourists
visited
India

2011 1487641
2012 1742805
2013 1334178
2014 47197#
(Upto
31.3.
2014)

With the introduction of simplified new Disembarkation/ Embarkation Cards (DE cards) the NRI column was removed with effect from 01.4.2014, therefore, the information on NRIs who visited Indian on/after 01/4/2014 is not recorded and hence not available.

(d) 530 number of NRIs who took part in the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children conducted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs which is the nodal Ministry for Overseas Indians including both NRIs & PIOs. Other programmes of the Ministry are targeted towards the overseas Indian community in general or specifically towards Persons of Indian Origin(PIOs). Separate data

regarding NRIs is not maintained.

(e) and (f): Yes, Madam. Government has taken a number of steps in the recent past to make India an attractive investment destination. Recent FDI policy changes include following:

FDI cap raised from 26% to 49%, under Government route.

FDI above 49% subject to approval of Cabinet Committee on Security, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern and 'state-of-art' technology in the country.

(2) Policy on Rail Infrastructure through Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment has been liberalized:

100% FDI under the automatic route permitted in rail infrastructure projects namely (i) Suburban corridor projects through PPP,(ii) High speed train projects, (iii) Dedicated freight lines, (iv) Rolling stock including train sets, and locomotives/coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities, (v) Railway Electrification, (vi) Signaling systems, (vii) Freight terminals, (viii) Passenger terminals, (ix) Infrastru- cture in industrial park pertaining to railway line/sidings including electrified railway lines and connectivity to main railway line and (x) Mass Rapid Transport Systems.

In sensitive areas, from security point of view, FDI beyond 49% would be allowed subject to approval of Cabinet Committee on Security on a case to case basis.