

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
OPENING CONSULATE GENERAL AT DAMMAM
Bellarmin Shri A.V.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether existing number of staff in the Missions/Posts abroad, particularly in Riyadh and Jeddah is sufficient to provide requisite services to the Indian Nationals residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- (b) ifso, the reasons for inordinate delay caused in the settlement of legal and other dues to the heirs of the deceased Indian Nationals.
- (c) whether Union Government proposes to open a Consulate General in DAMMAM; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken /proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- a) No, Sir. The existing number of staff in Missions/Posts abroad is not sufficient to provide requisite services to the Indians resident abroad. Government is actively considering a proposal to augment the staff in Missions/Posts abroad including in Saudi Arabia.
- b) Our Missions/Posts abroad, especially in the Gulf region, actively pursue the cases of payment of legal dues and compensation for death to the heirs of the deceased Indians for speedy settlement. There is, however, delay in some cases, mainly due to late receipt of requisite legal documents (legal heirship, power of attorney) from the heirs of the deceased and procedural formalities in the local courts in delivering final judgments on death compensation cases.
- c) and d) No, Sir. The present policy of the Government of Saudi Arabia does not permit opening of an Indian Consulate in Dammam.