

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2958
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
WELFARE CENTRES FOR INDIANS ABROAD
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open welfare centres to help Indians abroad;
- (b) if so, the locations of these centres;
- (c) the nature of services to be rendered by these centres;
- (d) whether these centres will help Indian brides abandoned in foreign countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) & (b): Government has decided to set up an Overseas Indian Center at Dubai to assist the Overseas Indians in the Gulf countries. Besides, posts of Counsellors, Community Affairs (Development) have been created in Washington and Kuala Lumpur, as part of Indian Missions in these countries. The Counsellor in Washington will cater to the Overseas Indians in USA and Canada and Counsellor in Kuala Lumpur will cater to the Overseas Indians in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.
- (c) The proposed Overseas Indian Center and Counselors will primarily function as the overseas field formations of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. They will inter-alia promote public-private partnerships with overseas Indian apex organizations and professional institutions. They will also provide for legal, financial and health counseling for the benefit of overseas Indians.
- (d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has announced a scheme for giving legal/financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses. Under the Scheme counseling and legal services would be provided through credible Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions in the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Gulf.