

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4080
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010
PROTEST ON RENUNCIATION CHARGES
Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any protest from Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in regard to the submission of old passports and Renunciation charges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government on the said issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) & (b): Yes. Some overseas Indian organizations petitioned the Government stating that it was difficult for many Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to surrender old passports since they had either lost/misplaced their passports or never kept them in their possession after acquisition of foreign citizenship. They also requested that the renunciation fees of Rs. 7,000/- should not be imposed with retrospective effect.

(c): The Constitution of India does not permit dual citizenship. Indian passports are, therefore, required to be surrendered by all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) upon acquisition of foreign citizenship in accordance with the Citizenship Act and the Passports Act to prevent their misuse.

With a view to minimizing hardship to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), on 01-06-2010 the Government decided to dispense with the requirement of making a declaration of renunciation and waived payment of renunciation fee under the Citizenship Act in respect of cases of acquisition of foreign nationality by PIOs up to 31-05-2010. However, this waiver does not have retrospective effect and does not therefore apply to cases where renunciation fee has already been paid by those who acquired foreign nationality prior to 31-05-2010.