

15

**COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2021-2022)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

‘WELFARE OF INDIAN DIASPORA: POLICIES/SCHEMES’.

FIFTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

AUGUST, 2022/SRAVANA, 1944 (Saka)

FIFTEENTH REPORT
COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(2021-2022)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

‘WELFARE OF INDIAN DIASPORA: POLICIES/SCHEMES’.

Presented to Lok Sabha on 3 August, 2022
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 3 August, 2022



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

AUGUST, 2022/SRAVANA, 1944 (Saka)

COEA NO.

Price : Rs.

© **2022 by Lok Sabha Secretariat**

Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (____ Edition) and Printed by

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2020-21).....	(i)
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2021-22).....	(ii)
INTRODUCTION.....	(iii)
Chapter I Profile and Geographical Distribution of Indian Diaspora.....	1
Chapter II India's Engagement with its Diaspora.....	6
Chapter III Major Events/Programmes/Schemes for Welfare of Indian Diaspora.....	27
Chapter IV Welfare Measures for Migrant Workers.....	77

APPENDICES

Annexure I Compiled Data of Indian Diaspora of NRIs/PIOs/OCIs and Students as on 31.12.2021.....	93
Annexure II Amount collected under ICWF during 2019-2021.....	101
Annexure III Data on Pre-Departure Orientation Training Imparted to Emigrant Workers going for Overseas Employment in ECR Countries.....	112
Annexure IV Minutes of the Eleventh Sitting of the Committee held on 11 January, 2021.....	114
Annexure V Minutes of the Twenty-Third Sitting of the Committee held on 29 June, 2021....	116
Annexure VI Minutes of the Fourth Sitting of the Committee held on 22 December, 2021....	119
Annexure VII Minutes of the Thirteenth Sitting of the Committee held on 01 August, 2022...	122

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2020-21)

1. Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
4. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
5. Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
6. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
7. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
8. Smt. Preneet Kaur
9. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
10. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
11. Shri P. C. Mohan
12. Ms. Chandrani Murmu
13. Shri Ritesh Pandey
14. Dr. K. C. Patel
15. Shri N.K. Premachandran
16. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
17. Shri Soyam Babu Rao
18. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy
19. Shri Rebati Tripura
20. Vacant^{\$}
21. Vacant^{*}

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri K. J. Alphons
23. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
24. Smt. Misha Bharti
25. Shri P. Chidambaram
26. Shri Ranjan Gogoi
27. Shri Swapan Dasgupta[#]
28. Shri Kapil Sibal
29. Shri Abdul Wahab^{@@}
30. Shri Brij Lal
31. Vacant[@]

Secretariat

1. Shri P.C.Koul - Additional Secretary
2. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Director
3. Ms. K. Muanniang Tunlut - Deputy Secretary

^{\$} Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma passed away on 17 March, 2021.

^{*} Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi ceased to be Member of the Committee on her appointment as Minister w.e.f. 07.07.2021.

[#] Shri Swapan Dasgupta resigned on 17.03.2021 and has been re-nominated w.e.f. 11.06.2021.

^{@@} Shri Abdul Wahab retired on 21.03.2021 and has been re-nominated w.e.f. 11.06.2021.

[@] Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia ceased to be Member of the Committee on his appointment as Cabinet Minister w.e.f. 07.07.2021.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2021-22)

1. Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
3. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
4. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
5. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
6. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
7. Smt. Preneet Kaur
8. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
9. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
10. Shri P. C. Mohan
11. Smt. Queen Oja
12. Shri Ritesh Pandey
13. Dr. K. C. Patel
14. Shri N.K. Premachandran
15. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
16. Shri Soyam Babu Rao
17. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy
18. Shri Rebati Tripura
19. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
20. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer*
21. Vacant

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
23. Shri Brijlal
24. Shri Abdul Wahab@
25. Shri Prakash Javadekar
26. Shri Ranjan Gogoi#
27. Vacant^
28. Vacant\$
29. Vacant\$
30. Vacant\$
31. Vacant@@

Secretariat

1. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Joint Secretary
2. Ms. Reena Goplakrishnan - Director
3. Ms. K. Muanniang Tunglut - Deputy Secretary

*Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 7 February, 2022.

@Shri Abdul Wahab, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 2 May, 2022.

#Shri Ranjan Gogoi, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 5 May, 2022.

^ Shri P. Chidambaram, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) resigned *w.e.f.* 16th June, 2022

\$ Shri K.J Alphans, Shri Kapil Sibal and Shri Sanjay Raut, Members of Parliament, Rajya Sabha ceased to be Members of the Committee consequent upon their retirement on 04.07.2022.

@@ Smt. Misha Bharti, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha ceased to be Member of the Committee consequent upon her retirement on 07.07.2022.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on External Affairs, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Fifteenth Report of the Committee on External Affairs (2021-22) on the subject 'Welfare of Indian Diaspora: Policies/Schemes'.

2. The Committee selected the subject for detailed examination during 2020-21 and continued the examination during 2021-22. The Committee held briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs on the subject on 11 January, 2021. The Committee also took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on 29 June, 2021 and further evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs on 22 December, 2021.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 1 August, 2022. The Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee are appended to the Report.

4. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for placing material information as well as tendering evidence and views before the Committee.

5. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
01 August, 2022

10 Sravana, 1944 (Saka)

P.P. CHAUDHARY,
Chairperson,
Committee on External Affairs

CHAPTER I

PROFILE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN DIASPORA

1.1 The Government of India conceptualized in 2004 that 'diaspora' word will be used as “a generic term to describe the people who migrated from territories that are currently within the borders of the Republic of India. It also refers to their descendants.” Today, „diaspora“ is commonly understood to include Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), who are citizens of India and Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs), including Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), who are foreign nationals. PIO and OCI card holders have been merged under one category “OCI” in 2015. For the Government, the diaspora encompasses a group of people who can either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently. The official classification/categorization of Indian Diaspora, therefore, includes Overseas Citizens of India/Persons of Indian Origin and Non-Resident Indians.

1.2 India has a large diaspora in the world with over 31 million including over 13 million NRIs and 18 million PIOs spread across the globe. Indian diaspora is known for their talent, exemplary discipline and hard-work and have made significant contributions to science, technology, music, literature, politics and business.

1.3 In regard to the profile and geographical distribution of the Indian diaspora, the Ministry, in a written reply furnished to the Committee has stated that the profile of our diaspora includes Head of Governments/Head of States and political leaders of many countries, businessmen, educationists, scientists, engineers, doctors, research scholars, CEOs of top global MNCs and professionals across the globe. Indian diaspora is spread across the world with major concentration in U.S, Canada, UK, Australia, Gulf, E.U., South & West Africa and Girmitya countries.

1.4 During the course of briefing on the subject on 11 January 2021, the Secretary (CPV & OIA) elaborated on the diverse composition of the Indian diaspora:

“The NRIs and PIOs are spread across the globe. They are virtually in every country.... they have really been outstanding in terms of their contribution. Since they are so diverse in their composition, because the initial band of people who had gone out were people who had gone out under the Girmitya arrangement as indentured labour. You will find such communities in the East Pacific, Fiji and some of those countries over there. You find them in Mauritius, the Caribbean, Suriname etc. They are a very distinct identity. We have some *Girmitya* related programmes that we do; in fact, a lot of them. We have seen a great success in recent times in how they have preserved their culture and heritage and advanced it.

The second flush was again quasi-indentured labour who went to the South-east Asia. For instance, a community of almost two million in Malaysia and Singapore were also quasi-indentured labour. They went to work in farms. But they are also a very strong

community of PIOs. In fact, if we look at the PIO community, that is perhaps the second largest that we have anywhere. Just before Independence and immediately after, we had the professionals going out. Most of them went to the Western countries, to Europe, America, etc. These were professionals. Of course, there is another community of traders who have been on for a very long time. These are the people who are there in various parts of Arabian Peninsula and in Africa as well. They are very well politically connected besides being very economically successful”.

1.5 Upon enquiry regarding whether a database of our vast diaspora has been maintained and utilized in the preparation of schemes for their welfare, the Committee have been informed that the Ministry tries to maintain a comprehensive and latest database of Indian diaspora and uses the same in preparation of various welfare schemes. The compiled data of Indian diaspora comprising of NRIs/PIOs/OCIs and students as on 31 December 2021 (**Annexure I**) indicate 36347858 PIOs/OCIs, 9509865 NRIs and 1056120 students.

1.6 On being asked the manner in which the Ministry would be able to undertake welfare activities for the Indian diaspora in the absence of an authentic database, the Ministry has stated that the database of Indian diaspora is regularly updated with inputs from Indian Missions and other sources. However, since the registration by the diaspora is voluntary, the entire diaspora does not register with the Embassies/Posts abroad. The data also varies because of the mobility of the diaspora.

1.7 To a specific query whether the Government has any authentic data regarding the number of Indian students abroad, the Ministry, in its written reply has stated that they have an approximate data of the number of Indian students abroad.

1.8 Highlighting the efforts and challenges in regard to developing a database for migrants including students studying overseas, the Secretary (CPV&OIA) during the course of evidence on 22 December 2021 stated:

“...one of the efforts of the Ministry has been to develop databases for all migrants, including students who are going overseas. We are trying to do this in many ways. We have also begun a project in which we are trying to look at the practices of data management across countries so that we can learn from that and develop a module. Through the initiatives of the embassy and the Ambassador and his team, we go out to the Universities in particular where we know that Indian students are. We try and establish a relationship with the administration of those Universities, with the students’ bodies that represent the Indians who reside in those Universities. We try and involve them into cultural activities so that they feel more at home with the Indian embassies. Then, we try through that to develop a database. Our systems currently are voluntary for registration of people who live overseas whether they are NRIs or students.

The compliance levels of our community, the Indians overseas, is not very high on this factor. So, it remains a constant challenge, but the embassy remains in touch with the student bodies as well as Indian associations, cultural associations so that we can try and develop as strong a database as possible. Every few years, through the Overseas Indian Division, we try and do a rough census kind of a thing of the Indians who live overseas and we learn, every time we do this about communities that are actually living there”

1.9 The Committee further enquired whether the Ministry has compiled and compared data from across countries on the various challenges posed and opportunities provided by the enormous and diverse diaspora to which the Ministry has informed that it tries to maintain an updated database from various reliable sources of Indian diaspora and use the same in preparation of various welfare schemes. The Ministry compiles the data of diaspora on a voluntary basis. It also uses other sources like statistical collection of data from foreign countries. Since the collection of data is on a voluntary basis, most of the diaspora doesn’t give information on the various challenges posed and opportunities provided to the enormous and diverse diaspora. Nevertheless, the Ministry does have inputs of various challenges faced by the diaspora through grievances portals and other sources. A number of steps have been taken by the Ministry and the Missions/Posts abroad to help the diaspora, including but not limited to, creation of MADAD portal, grievances portal, interactions with diaspora in various fora etc.

1.10 Asked to elaborate upon the tangible benefits derived from the Indian diaspora in terms of better relations with host countries across the spectrum of economic, strategic and political relations, the Ministry has stated that Indian diaspora have established themselves as pioneers in every field and are holding positions of leadership in their host countries. They are known for their innate talent, hard work, ethics, discipline, law abiding nature and penchant for success. They form the most economically progressive minority community in their countries and make great contributions to the economies of their host countries. They form the backbone of the healthcare services, science & technology, IT services and business communities in most of the countries. They serve as ambassadors of India’s interests abroad and work as bridges between Indian Government and their host countries. The Indian diaspora plays an important role in developing better and friendly relations with their host countries and is a driving force in getting foreign remittances and investments from abroad to India.

1.11 With regard to the assessment of the Ministry on the role of Indian diaspora in social and economic development, foreign policy agenda and cultural promotion, the Committee have been informed that Indian diaspora plays a very important role in social and economic development of India. They hold important positions in many Governments. They are the Indian voice in various multilateral fora. Their role in India’s soft power projection and in promoting Indian culture outside is very important. They play an important role for track II diplomacy. They are an important bridge between India and many foreign Governments. Our people have reached the pinnacle of political power in Mauritius, Portugal, Suriname and Guyana having Indian origin

leaders. CEOs of top global MNCs are PIOs, for examples, Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Google's Sundar Pichai, IMF's Geeta Gopinath, Mastercard's Ajay Banga, Twitter's Parag Aggarwal etc.

1.12 On being asked about the remittances sent by overseas Indians, the Ministry has stated that no precise statistics are available on account of personal remittances sent by overseas Indians to their families. However, the World Bank report on remittances suggest that India with US \$ 87 billion of remittances is the largest recipient country of the world in 2021 and it is expected to grow by 2.6% in the financial year 2022.

1.13 The Committee note that the Indian diaspora comprising of over 18 million PIOs and 13 million NRIs spread across the globe is one of the largest overseas community of any country. Moreover, the composition of the Indian diaspora is diverse, consisting of labourers/workers, traders, political leaders, professionals and students. The Committee further note that as per the World Bank report on remittances, India is the largest recipient country of the world in 2021 and its remittances is expected to grow by 2.6% in 2022. The Committee are, however, surprised that authentic data of the Indian diaspora is not available in the Ministry. The Ministry has put forth the justification that since registration by the diaspora is voluntary, the entire diaspora does not register with the Indian Embassies/Posts abroad and the data also varies because of the mobility of the diaspora. The Committee strongly feel that the Ministry may not be able to implement welfare schemes for the said community as well as address the challenges being faced by them effectively in the absence of a comprehensive and up-to-date database. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Indian Embassies/Missions/Posts abroad should play a more pro-active role, maintain greater outreach and develop closer contact with the diaspora community and encourage them to register themselves with the Embassies/Missions/Posts in coordination with the various diaspora associations, cultural organizations and student bodies so that authentic database is maintained in each

Embassy/Mission/Post with the Ministry and based on such authentic updated data received from various countries, concerted efforts may be made to collate an authentic database of the Indian diaspora at Ministry level and use it appropriately in preparing and implementing welfare scheme for diaspora community.

(Recommendation No. 1)

1.14 The Committee observe that the Ministry had begun a project involving a study on the practices of data management across countries to develop a module for migrant workers and students studying overseas. In Committee's view an authentic database of migrant workers and overseas students is long overdue as they constitute the most vulnerable section of the Indian diaspora. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to conduct in-depth study regarding data management system of countries which have large diaspora community at the earliest and develop a module for migrant workers and overseas students within a specified time-frame. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in this regard

(Recommendation No. 2)

1.15 The Committee observe that the profile and geographical distribution as well as the enormous and diverse Indian diaspora presents a great opportunity for the promotion of India's soft power and cultural diplomacy abroad. The Committee, therefore, desire that this opportunity should be tapped and the potential it provides should be harnessed to serve as an effective tool in furthering India's interest and influence globally. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should prepare a policy framework in this regard and work out an action plan to implement the same in a time-bound manner.

(Recommendation No. 3)

CHAPTER II

INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH ITS DIASPORA

A. Institutional and Administrative Framework to Engage with Diaspora

2.1. The Ministry has stated that India's engagement with its diaspora is characterized under the rubric of 4Cs - Care, Connect, Celebrate & Contribute. In this way, the Ministry of External Affairs (Overseas Indian Affairs - I, Overseas Indian Affairs - II, Passport Seva Programme, Consular, Passport & Visa and Protector General & Overseas Employment Divisions) deals with issues relating to engagement with Indian diaspora.

2.2 The approach of the Government towards engagement with its diaspora has also been highlighted by the Secretary (CPV & OIA) in his opening statement during evidence on the subject on 22 December 2021 as under:

“...the issue of diaspora, engagement with them, and the four „Cs“ that the Prime Minister had mentioned, that are, Connect, Care, Celebrate, and Contribute, have been a part of the Ministry's primary agenda from the very outset. We believe in an All-of-Ministry Approach, and eventually, we have also moved towards an All-of- Government Approach in which other wings of the Government, other Ministries, other departments as well as the State Governments are involved in the process of diaspora affairs”.

2.3 On being asked whether there exists a policy document on our diaspora, the Ministry has informed that it engages diaspora through its various programmes and schemes. There are various programmes which the Government run for outreach to diaspora. Thus, the policy of the Government evolves based on the feedback which it gets from the diaspora from time to time.

2.4 The Committee observe that the Ministry of External Affairs engages with the diaspora through its various programmes and schemes and the policies of the Government evolve based on the feedback from the diaspora from time to time. The Committee also acknowledge that India's engagement with its diaspora has moved from 'All of Ministry approach' towards an 'All-of-Government approach' in which other wings of the Government, other Ministries and Departments as well as the State Governments are involved in the process of diaspora affairs. The Committee are, however, surprised that a clear-cut policy on its diaspora is yet to be drafted by the Government despite having a huge diaspora playing a very important role in the socio-economic development of their

home country. In view of the Government’s evolving policy in relation to its diaspora, the Committee, desire that the Ministry should bring out a policy document on its diaspora to serve as a guiding principle for deeper and wider engagement with the diaspora community with an objective that all involved in the process of diaspora affairs may work in tandem to achieve the objectives set in this regard.

(Recommendation No. 4)

(i) Merger of MOIA with MEA

2.5 The Committee observed that the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) was merged with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2015 and asked the MEA to elaborate upon the institutional, administrative and policy framework that has been set up since the merger. The Ministry has stated that Working Group to analyze the objectives, working and challenges of various schemes/programmes/initiatives for welfare of Indian diaspora has been recently constituted. Various Divisions have been set up under the MEA, which provides the requisite institutional and administrative support for wider engagement with diaspora and formulates policies for the same.

2.6 When enquired whether the Government has been successful in attaining the objectives behind the merger and created ample policy and framework spaces for the welfare of the overseas Indians, the Ministry has stated that it has been successful in attaining the objective behind the merger and created ample policy and framework spaces for the welfare of overseas Indians. The concept of the merger was based on the welfare of Indian diaspora. The merger has reduced bureaucracy and procedural delays leading to fast response to the problem and welfare of the diaspora abroad. The feedback about the more efficient outreach of the Government has been received from diaspora during the PM visits.

2.7 During briefing on the subject on 11 January 2021, the Secretary (CPV & OIA) elaborated as below the manner in which the merger of MOIA with MEA has given a more holistic approach towards dealing with the issue of the Indian diaspora:

“Actually, it was kind of a re-integration because as you know, it used to be two Divisions of OIA, which were there and which still remain in the Ministry. But in a sense, we find that it now gives us a more holistic approach towards dealing with the issue of diaspora as well as Indians who are overseas. Now, we can have a look at this in a more holistic manner.

This time, for instance, when we celebrated the *Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas* a few days ago, this was also live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook and what our Missions overseas did was that they had small little events in their Embassies itself to relay the PBD Convention. In many cases, there were also hybrid events where they had members of the diaspora who were in their Community Centre or in their Auditoriums to do these programmes. So, I would say that in many ways the integration of the OIA Ministry back into the MEA has been like a re-integration. It has been successful and it has been a holistic approach that has developed”.

2.8 With regard to the specific steps taken for wider engagement with diaspora, post merger of MOIA with MEA, the Committee have been informed that the scale of organization of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) has been revamped with much greater participation of diaspora. Among the programmes/schemes revamped and new schemes/programme initiated are Know India Programme (KIP), Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz, Videsh Sampark Series and PIO Parliamentarian Conference etc.

2.9 The Committee further enquired whether any evaluation study has been conducted on the impact of the various schemes/programmes for the welfare of the Indian diaspora, particularly during the period after the merger of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with MEA. In this regard, the Ministry has informed that the Government is in regular touch with Indian diaspora across the globe. Indian Missions from time to time provide feedback on various programmes. Such feedback contributes to policy making at various levels. The general feedback has been positive, which is evident on various social media platforms. Now, a Working Group has been established in the Ministry to evaluate various schemes and programmes on diaspora.

2.10 The Committee note that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) was merged with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2015 and the merger has been like a re-integration bringing in a more holistic approach towards dealing with the issues of the Indian diaspora. The Committee, however, are of the view that the success and efficacy of the merger can only be known after proper evaluation by an independent body. The Ministry has recently constituted a Working Group to analyze the objectives, working and challenges of various schemes/programmes/initiatives undertaken by it for the welfare of the Indian diaspora. The Committee hope that the Working Group will specifically focus on the outreach and delivery under the said welfare schemes post merger of MOIA with MEA. The Committee also desire that evaluation of the said

schemes be completed at the earliest so as to ensure effective implementation of the schemes for the welfare of the Indian diaspora.

(Recommendation No. 5)

(ii) Role of Missions Abroad

2.11 The Committee observed that India has 202 Missions abroad and enquired about the functioning of Indian Embassies for the welfare and redressal of the grievances of Indian citizens abroad. The Ministry, in a written reply furnished to the Committee, has stated that the Government accords highest priority to the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. Indian Missions/Posts abroad work with a motto: “Indian Embassy: Home Away from Home”.

2.12 The institutional framework for support and welfare of Indian nationals abroad stands considerably strengthened. The MADAD portal, e-Migrate, ICWF and Indian Worker Resource Centres are among the important mechanisms to assist Indian nationals. All Indian Missions/ Posts also actively engage through social media platforms. The Ministry and Missions receive a large number of requests on their social media handles which were attended to immediately. The Government has also launched an awareness campaign „Surakshit Jaaye, Prasikshit Jaaye“ towards ensuring that Indian workers should migrate safely with an enhanced skill set.

2.13 Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up in New Delhi and at Dubai (UAE), Sharjah (UAE), Riyadh, Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to provide guidance and counseling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers. Kshetriya Pravasi Sahayata Kendras (KPSK) have also been set up in Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Lucknow to assist emigrants or their relatives to redress their problems/complaints regarding overseas employment.

2.14 Indian Missions and Posts abroad are readily accessible to all Indian citizens within their jurisdiction and maintain close contact with the Indian community. There is a designated nodal officer in each Mission and Post to deal with emergency situations. In key Missions and Posts, a 24x7 Helpline has been established. A dedicated Community Welfare Wing has also been established in Missions and Posts where there is sizeable Indian community. Indian nationals residing abroad are advised to register with the nearest Indian Mission or Post.

2.15 In response to a query, the Ministry has informed that most of the requests for assistance/complaints received from Indian nationals pertain to employment related issues, detention/arrest or death of Indian nationals, passport related issues, repatriation to India, non-payment of salaries and denial of legitimate labour rights & benefits such as non-issuance/renewal of residence permits, non-payment/grant of overtime allowance, weekly holidays, longer working hours, refusal to grant exit/re-entry permits for visit to India, refusal to allow the worker to return to India on final exit visa after completion of their contracts and non-provision of medical & insurance facilities, not being paid compensation upon death, etc.

2.16 On receipt of request for help/complaints from or on behalf of the Indian nationals, the same are addressed quickly by the Indian Missions by taking them up with the concerned local Government authorities for resolution. Complaints pertaining to employment related issues are taken up by the Indian Missions with the concerned foreign employer/ Labour Department and other concerned officials in that country for prompt redressal. Whenever required and possible, the embassy officials even contact the employers for resolution of grievances.

2.17 When asked to state whether the Government proposes to make any assessment/conduct a study regarding the manner in which Indian embassies and missions/posts can play a greater and more effective role in the welfare of the diaspora, in quick redressal of their grievances and for promoting Indian culture abroad, the Ministry has stated that the Government of India places highest importance to the welfare & safety of Indians abroad. Any issue pertaining to Indians abroad is dealt by the Mission/Posts on priority basis. Missions/Posts conduct open houses for NRIs to discuss issues related to their safety and security. These issues are further highlighted and taken up with the host Government wherever necessary for action on priority basis. Besides, the Ministry organizes awareness workshops on safe and legal migration for the welfare of workers and to generate awareness among them.

2.18 A Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) is imparted to the workers before they migrate to foreign countries. The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) provides insurance for workers. Some other initiatives like MADAD Portal, Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), E-migrate Portal, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK), etc. help NRIs to get assistance and address their grievances and ensure their safety and security. Grievances are also registered and responded through various channels like calls, walk-in, e-mails, Twitter, Whatsapp, 24 x 7 Helpline and other Social Media accounts of Missions/Posts. Under the promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora, the Ministry provides grants to Indian Missions/Posts abroad for strengthening ties with the Overseas Indian Community to preserve, maintain and showcase their Indian heritage and culture. In addition, Ministry also gives various grants for celebrating National Days, Hindi Divas, ICCR Foundation Day etc. where Indian diaspora is engaged in a big way.

2.19 The Committee note that the Indian Missions/Posts abroad works with the motto ‘Indian Embassies: Home away from Home’. A robust system of grievance redressal which includes bringing such issues through e-mails, twitter and through CPGRAMS portal has been maintained. Keeping in view the fact that the Indian Missions/Posts are the direct link between India and its diaspora community, the Committee desire that they should play a greater and effective role in the welfare of the diaspora and in reconnecting them with the motherland. The Committee, however, find that a large chunk of the diaspora community including migrant workers and students are yet to be registered with the Indian

Missions/Posts abroad. The Committee, therefore, desire that the diaspora community should be encouraged to register with our Missions/Posts and based on an evaluation study fresh initiatives be taken to bring the Indian diaspora closer to their roots may be taken so that the Indian Embassies could truly become a ‘Home away from Home’ for them.

(Recommendation No. 6)

2.20 The Committee note that a dedicated Community Welfare Wing has been established in Missions and Posts where there is a sizeable Indian community. The Committee are of the view that such wings would facilitate closer contact between Indian diaspora and Indian Missions/Posts. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry do apprise the Committee about the objectives achieved through establishing such community welfare wings in Missions/Posts and also to establish Community Welfare Wing in all important Indian Missions/Posts on priority basis.

(Recommendation No. 7)

(iii) Role of ICM, ICCR and Other Organizations

2.21 The Committee observe that the work of MEA is flanked by several independent or semi-independent bodies especially, the India Centre for Migration (ICM) and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and enquired about the role of these two institutions along with that of Indian Missions/Posts abroad in the protection and welfare of Indian diaspora. The Ministry, in its written reply, has informed that the ICM serves as a research think tank to the MEA on all aspects of international migration and mobility. It plays an integral role in generating ideas through panel discussions and conducting research on migration and diaspora issues. ICM has organized panel discussions on diaspora issues and has also funded diaspora conferences in India. ICM has also participated actively in the flagship event of GoI - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to celebrate the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.

2.22 For the welfare of workers and to generate awareness among them, the centre organizes awareness workshops on safe and legal migration and has also prepared a Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) manual for prospective emigrants. ICM has also conducted several Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshops and made informative posters on welfare

schemes of the Government such as Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), PDOT, Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) that have been widely disseminated through online and offline medium across the country.

2.23 Under the aegis of the joint declaration on the India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) in which ICM is the local implementation partner representing MEA, studies on diaspora in Germany and Ireland have been undertaken. ICM also undertakes assessment of employment opportunities abroad with the help of Indian Missions. It also gives policy inputs to MEA from time to time to aid the efforts of the Government in protection and promotion of the welfare of Indian diaspora.

2.24 The Ministry has further stated that under BE 2021-2022 for ICM (think tank of the Ministry), 25 lakhs each for Grants-in-Aid (sub head 04.00.31) and salaries (sub head 04.00.36) was sanctioned. However, as sufficient unspent balance is available with ICM from the previous grant-in-aid provided during the tenure of erstwhile MOIA and subsequent interest earned on it, it may propose to surrender the sanctioned amount. Further, on account of the restrictions due to COVID-19 Pandemic, ICM's proposed seminars, workshops etc. are being conducted virtually. Rs.1 crore has been asked in the BE 2022-23.

2.25 ICCR plays a key role in the promotion of India's soft power abroad. It supplements the efforts of MEA to leverage Indian diaspora in soft power projection. Missions abroad maintain close contact with Indian diaspora and closely work with them to promote India's cultural influence in their accredited countries. The activities of ICCR including scholarship programme, cultural performances by sponsored troupes, exhibitions, International Day of Yoga, seminars & conferences abroad and distinguished visitors programme are organized by the Missions with active participation of the local diaspora.

2.26 On being asked to provide the details of funds allocated to think-tanks and organisations including the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Centre for Development Studies (CDS) etc. for providing research/data output related to Indian diaspora from 2017-18 to 2022-23, the Ministry has stated that it has provided financial grant to Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad for setting up of Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) for an amount of Rs. 21,11,000, Rs. 11,71,138 and Rs. 17,75,132 for the years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

2.27 A grant of Rs. 60,00,000 has been approved to Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad for Research Activities of Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) for the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23. Grant of Rs. 20,00,000 for 2020-21 has already been released and a grant of Rs. 20,00,000 for 2021-22 is under process.

2.28 The Committee note that while the ICM serves as a research think-tank to the MEA on all aspects of international migration as well as mobility and the ICCR plays a key role in the promotion of India's soft power abroad and supplements the efforts of MEA to

leverage Indian diaspora in soft power projection. The Committee feel that the ICM can play a greater role towards policy inputs so that the efforts of the Government for the welfare of the Indian diaspora is more result-oriented. Moreover, potential of ICCR being a bridge between India and other countries and being the 'Indian voice' in various multilateral fora, promoting India's soft power abroad needs to be harnessed effectively. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to deepen its engagement with the ICM and the ICCR so that a strong and vibrant Indian diaspora can be utilized as an effective tool in cultural diplomacy and soft power projection abroad.

(Recommendation No. 8)

2.29 The Committee note that the MEA has been providing funds to the India Centre for Migration and the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad for research/data output relating to the Indian diaspora. The Committee desire that the Ministry should monitor the utilization of such funds; ensure that research activities, seminars and workshops etc. are conducted regularly and the funds provided are actually utilized for the said purpose. The Committee also urge the Ministry to ensure that the findings/data regarding such activities are effectively utilized for policy formulation on diaspora affairs.

(Recommendation No. 9)

(iv) One Stop Centres

2.30 During their Study visit to Leh, Chandigarh and Shimla from 17 to 21 May 2022, the Committee have been informed that the MEA with the Ministry of Women and Child Development decided in March 2021, to set up One Stop Centres (OSCs) in the respective jurisdictions of nine Missions/Posts abroad for helping distressed Indian women (7 OSCs with provision of Shelter Homes in Bahrain, Doha, Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat, Riyadh and Jeddah and 2 OSCs without Shelter Home in Singapore and Toronto). The guidelines for establishment of One Stop Centres has been finalized with the approval of competent authority in the Ministry and conveyed to the Missions/Posts where OSCs are due to be opened in the first phase. The scheme is due to be launched shortly in the aforesaid nine countries.

2.31 In view of the increasing cases of women being deserted in NRI marriages, the Committee desired to know the status of the NRI Marriage Bill. To this, the Ministry has informed that after the Registration of Marriage of Non-resident Indian Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 11 February 2019, it was referred by Rajya Sabha to the 16th Lok Sabha Standing Committee on External Affairs for examination. The Standing Committee held the first preliminary briefing on 1 March 2019. However, after the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha and the formation of 17th Lok Sabha, the Bill was re-referred to the new Standing Committee for further examination.

2.32 The 17th Lok Sabha Standing Committee held its meetings on 18 November 2019, 2 December 2019 and 27 January 2020 for examining the proposed Bill. The Standing Committee has submitted its final report with its recommendations on the proposed Bill to the Rajya Sabha on 12 March 2020. In the recommendations, the Standing Committee has suggested wide-ranging changes in the Bill which involve various Departments and Ministries. Therefore, inputs of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice and Ministry of Women & Child Development are awaited on the subject.

2.33 The Committee have been informed that guidelines for establishment of One Stop Centres for helping distressed Indian women abroad has been finalized and conveyed to the Missions/Posts where such centres are due to be opened in the first phase. In view of the pivotal role likely to be played by these centres in providing timely assistance to the vulnerable distressed Indian women, the Committee desire that the Scheme should be launched without any delay and the status in this regard may be furnished to them.

(Recommendation No. 10)

2.34 While examining ‘The Registration of Marriage of Non Resident Indian Bill, 2019’ referred to the Committee for examination and report, the Committee had considered all the issues relating to NRI marriages including the provisions for registration of NRI marriages in various Central legislations and made recommendations/suggested amendments in the Bill. The Report of the Committee was presented to Parliament on 12 March 2020. The Committee desire that the Ministry should complete its consultations

with all the concerned Ministries/Departments and stakeholders in this regard at the earliest and enact a Legislation for the benefit of the Indian diaspora/NRIs.

(Recommendation No. 11)

B. Portals for Engagement with Indian Diaspora

(i) Global Pravasi Rishta Portal

2.35 The Ministry has stated that Global Pravasi Rishta Portal was launched in December 2020 for real time engagement with diaspora.

2.36 On being asked to state the response received so far regarding the Pravasi Rishta Portal, the Ministry has informed that the Rishta Portal (RISHTA) was launched in December 2020. Thereafter, the Missions and Posts have tried to popularise the Portal through various means such as using social media including Facebook and Twitter handles, community Whatsapp groups, Mission's virtual news letters and adding the link of the Portal to the Homepage of the Mission's website. Some Heads of Mission have also held meetings with the office bearers of the Indian Associations and prominent members of the diaspora. Intermittently, instructions have also been issued to various Indian Associations to spread the word around and popularize the Portal among Indians abroad. Missions and Posts have also been introducing the Portal to the Indian diaspora in various events of the Missions/Indian Cultural Centres such as during Pravasi Bharatiya Divas events, Hindi Divas, National Days, celebration of ICCR Foundation Day, various Indian festivals, etc. The response to the Portal has been picking up slowly as overseas Indians have started interacting with the Missions through the Portal. As of now, around 15,000 registrations have been done on the Portal.

2.37 The Committee note that the Government had launched the Rishta Portal in December 2020 for real time engagement with the diaspora and around 15,000 registrations have been done on the Portal so far. Keeping in view the huge population of the Indian diaspora in various countries, the Committee find the response lukewarm and desire that publicity/awareness programmes about the Portal should be disseminated widely so that the objective behind launching of the Portal is achieved. Efforts may also be

made to ensure that the Portal serve as an effective tool for the diaspora to contribute to the National development efforts of the Government.

(Recommendation No. 12)

(ii) Global Indian Students' Portal

2.38 The Committee have been informed that Global Indian Students' Portal is being developed to provide complete and comprehensive information on educational facilities abroad to Indian Students wishing to pursue studies abroad.

2.39 On being asked the status of designing, development and maintenance of Global Indian Students' Portal for Indian students abroad and the extent to which it is likely to benefit the said students, the Ministry has informed that they had undertaken to prepare a Global Indian Students' Portal to provide information to the students to assist them in taking an informed decision in selecting courses in Universities abroad. This is a very lengthy, domain specific and time consuming process as it is the first time that the Ministry is attempting to provide such a platform to the students. Ministry has already put up a data collection portal for collating the requisite data from various stakeholders who are involved in providing the requisite information and can be put on the prospective Global Indian Students' Portal including Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Once the data collection is completed, then the data will be analysed and used for creating a students' portal and thereafter the data will be uploaded in the Global Indian Students' Portal.

2.40 The Committee further enquired whether any time-frame has been fixed for data collection, collation and operationalization of the Global Indian Students' Portal wherein they have been informed that the Ministry has also engaged a qualified company for designing the Portal and sieving the data. It is hopeful that the first draft template of the Portal will be ready in near future.

2.41 The Committee note that the Ministry has undertaken a lengthy, domain-specific and time-consuming exercise to prepare a Global Indian Students' Portal which would provide information to the students to assist them in taking an informed decision while selecting courses in universities abroad. The Ministry is hopeful that the first draft template of the Portal would be ready in the near future. The Committee are of the view that once the portal is operationalized, cases of duping of students by fake universities and fraudulent agents would be reduced. They, therefore, urge the Ministry to expedite the

process of data collection, collation and operationalization of the Students' Portal along with provisioning of adequate resources for the project.

Recommendation No. 13)

(iii) e-Sanad Project

2.42 To a query regarding the progress made so far under the e-Sanad project, the Ministry has informed that an online portal e-Sanad (an electronic service delivery platform for Apostille and Attestation of documents issued by Government of India) aiming at contactless, cashless and paperless attestation/apostille services was introduced in 2017. On receipt of application, the details of the documents digitally reach the concerned local authority of the State Government and University/Education Board for confirmation of genuineness. Once the document is digitally verified, the document is attested/apostilled digitally by MEA. These copies are considered legal, and treated as a verified original copy of the document.

2.43 e-Sanad is currently operational in 14 Centres (Branch Secretariats/RPOs) across the country as well as at Attestation/OI Section of CPV Division of MEA, New Delhi. As on 4 January 2022, 8,16,213 documents have been successfully processed through e-Sanad Portal since its launch in 2017.

2.44 The Committee note that e-Sanad, an electronic service delivery platform for Apostille and Attestation of documents issued by the Government of India aiming at contactless, cashless and paperless attestation, launched in 2017 is currently operational in 14 Centres (Branch Secretariats/RPOs) across the country as well as at Attestation/OI Section of CPV Division of MEA, New Delhi. The Committee further note that since the launch of the e-Sanad Portal till 4 January 2022, 8,16,213 documents have been successfully processed. The Committee feel that the project is extremely beneficial to the Indian diaspora community and urge the Ministry to extend the service to Indian citizens residing abroad at the earliest. The Committee also desire that e-Sanad should be operationalized in all the States and UTs of the country in a phased manner. A timeline for the same may be prepared and shared with the Committee.

(Recommendation No. 14)

C. Engagement with Indian Students Abroad

(i) Cultural Engagement with Students

2.45 As per the data of Indian diaspora compiled by the Ministry, a total of 1,056,120 students are studying abroad as on December, 2021.

2.46 On being asked to state the efforts being made to keep the Indian Students abroad in touch with the Indian Culture, the Ministry has stated that Indian Missions abroad are in constant touch with the students in the countries of accreditation. Students get invited to cultural events of Embassies and National days. Students also participate in Diwali, Holi and other cultural & diaspora events. Where there is large Indian students population, the Embassy/Consulate organizes Indian cultural events with the Universities/Institutes. Donation of Indian books has been done at various foreign Universities. India Corner has also been established in many libraries across the globe. India Corner programme aims to introduce Indian culture and promote India's presence to the outside world through donations on Indian and India related publications. The subjects range from arts, economy, people, philosophy, literature, culture, folk traditions, biographies of great leaders and history to nature, cookery, architecture, ancient and contemporary India. Students are invited for celebration of Indian festivals in the Embassies. Indian Chairs including Sanskrit & Hindi have been established in many Universities. Cultural centers organize regular yoga and performing Arts classes. Seminars & Conferences abroad and distinguished visitors programme are organized by the Missions with active participation of the local diaspora.

2.47 The Committee observe that a large number of Indian students are studying abroad but many of them have not been registered with the Indian Missions/Posts. The Committee are apprehensive that without such imprint, our Missions/Posts will not be in a position to reach out to them in times of need/crisis. The Committee also feel that without constant cultural engagement, students might lost touch with our Indian culture and ethos. The Committee, therefore, desire that these students should be brought into closer contact with the Indian Embassies. In this digital era, increasing use of ICT tools may be promoted for the purpose. The Committee also urge the Missions/Consulates abroad to organize more cultural events/themes showcasing the rich historical and cultural heritage of India on a regular basis. Wide publicity of such cultural programmes may be given including through

social media platforms and Indian students abroad may be encouraged to participate actively in such events. The Committee further desire that Indian Embassies/Consulates should be very proactive in reaching out to our students in their universities/institutes so that they are made to feel that our Missions/Posts are really a ‘Home away from Home’.

(Recommendation No. 15)

(ii) Grievance Redressal of Overseas Indian Students

2.48 When asked to state the number and nature of complaints received from Indian students abroad during the last four years and in the current year, the number of cases disposed of successfully and the efforts being made to settle all the pending cases expeditiously, the Ministry has stated that complaints received from Indian students have largely been on Travel Visa and travel issues particularly because of travel restrictions since 2020 onwards due to spread of COVID-19. There have been few complaints regarding recognition of the Universities abroad, fee structure and students being duped by fraudulent agents. These grievances are received through various Missions and platforms such as CPGRAMS, MADAD, messages to Indian Missions and to the Ministry.

2.49 The Ministry and Missions make all out efforts to address these grievances of the students. As a result, travel and Visa issues of many students have been resolved in many countries during the past one year. Some Missions have actively taken up the matter of fee structure and fake universities with the host countries and wherever the fraudulent agents have been functioning abroad, the host Governments have been informed about such agencies.

2.50 The Committee also desired to know whether the Ministry has taken measures to check fraudulent agents/consultants in India and abroad who duped the students going abroad wherein the Ministry has informed that the Office of OE & PG and Indian Missions take stern steps and credential verification of various agents/consultants in India and abroad from time to time.

2.51 As regards the nature of assistance given to the students who got admitted in fake or poor standard institutions pertaining to refund of fees etc., the number of complaints received in this regard and the number of cases disposed of successfully, the MEA has informed that there have been a few cases pertaining to welfare issues like inadequate hostel facilities, security at the hostel and internal clash among students. These issues have been taken up by the Missions with University Administration and disposed of successfully.

2.52 Responding to a query regarding the efforts being made for redressal of complaints of students who are not able to join universities and the issue of their fee refunds, the Secretary (CPV &OIA) during the course of evidence on 29 June 2021 stated:

“This has been a very difficult issue for all of us and I think, this is something that pertains to several countries where this situation has been ongoing. This is a situation that pertains to both international as well as domestic students. The pandemic has created a situation where unfortunately, most of the classes have been held online and not in the physical mode and therefore, there has been a case for the remission or refund of certain kinds of fees. This is still an ongoing exercise. Unfortunately, we still have not reached a resolution on this subject.

We continue to pursue with them. But I suspect that for some time, this is something that the Government will continue to press with the local authorities and the universities concerned. Once the pandemic situation has eased somewhat, we would be able to find an easier solution particularly when physical classes begin”.

2.53 The Committee note that the Ministry as well as our Missions/Posts have been receiving complaints from students regarding fake universities, unreasonable fee structure and fraudulent agents/consultants duping the students going abroad. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and holding of only online classes, students are also facing difficulty in getting remission or refund of certain kinds of fees. The Committee desire that the issues faced by such students should be resolved at the earliest and urge the Ministry as well as Indian Missions/Posts abroad to pursue the matter with the host countries, local authorities and universities to ensure prompt redressal of the grievances of the said students.

(Recommendation No. 16)

(iii) Special Measures for Welfare of Indian Students Studying in China and Ukraine

2.54 On being asked about the support system for Indian Students in China, Ukraine and other countries, the Ministry has informed that China has nearly five lakh foreign students from various countries and most of them had gone to their respective countries in early 2020 after outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic in China when all universities in China had closed down. Since then, the universities have not reopened fully. Efforts are being made by almost all Embassies in

Beijing including Indian Embassy for return of foreign students to China to resume their in-person classes as early as possible.

2.55 Minister of State (External Affairs), Shri Muraleedharan had written to Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, to consider some options for such students to pursue their courses in India. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has indicated that it would not be feasible to permit such students to complete their internship or training in India.

2.56 The Government will continue to pursue this matter with the Chinese authorities through its Mission in Beijing and seek facilitation for an early return of Indian students to their universities in China. Meanwhile, Indian students who are studying in China have been advised to continue checking the Embassy website for regular updates on the matter. They have also been advised to remain in touch with their universities for any updates.

2.57 Approximately 20,000 Indian students study in various universities in Ukraine, out of which 18,000 are medical students. Regular updates for students, including matters related to welfare are shared through Mission's website and social media platforms, on which most Indian students in Ukraine are subscribed. Mission also circulates information from time to time into University-wise student whatsapp groups through designated persons, when the need arises. In case of problems, students reach out to Mission through MADAD portal, or through e-mail of Consular Wing of the Mission, or through telephone on Mission's emergency contact number or regular land-line number. In Ukrainian cities where there are considerable number of students, Mission has identified members of Indian community in the form of student contractors, as well as other community members, who assist the students in case of emergency under the Mission's guidance. Many medical students arrive in Ukraine through Indian education contractors based in Ukraine, who also liaise with University authorities and parents, to ensure student welfare. Student contractors are also made responsible by the Mission to ensure student welfare, and complaints by students and other issues are resolved through liaison with the contractors as well. The institutional framework for support and welfare of Indian nationals including students abroad stands considerably strengthened. The MADAD portal and ICWF are among the important mechanisms to assist Indian students.

2.58 Under special circumstances, for instance, during Vande Bharat Mission, Mission opened up additional direct contact numbers to relieve student distress, in addition to reaching to students through special online forms in which all interested students registered, and student support and evacuation flight planning was executed.

2.59 The Committee further enquired about the initiatives taken by the MEA in collaboration with the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare and Education to enable Indian students who could not continue their offline courses on account of closure of their universities in China and Ukraine during their Study visit to Leh, Chandigarh and Shimla from 17 to 21 May 2022. They

have been informed that the Indian Embassy in Ukraine continues to be in touch with Ukrainian authorities regarding the matter of continuation of studies of Indian students enrolled in Ukrainian universities. Presently, online education in respect of returnee Indian students from Ukraine is being continued by Ukrainian Universities till June, 2022 and thereafter, Ministry of Education of Ukraine will provide further notice.

2.60 On March 19, 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine had announced a decree regarding issuance of certification of higher education in the field of health. The main outcomes of this order are as follows:

- KROK-1, which is the first stage of unified examination of medical students, is postponed to the academic year 2022-23 from 2021-22. Instead, students of the third year, who are usually required to undertake KROK-1, would be allowed to pass the next academic year based on standard completion of their course requirements.
- KROK-2, for sixth year students, which is usually a mandatory pre-requisite for obtaining medical degree, would not be held. Instead, respective medical universities would be able to award degree to students who successfully pass a comprehensive practice-oriented qualifying exam, or on the basis of results of assessments over the academic year.

2.61 By this decree, students have been given a solution to overcome the established requirements of KROK-1 and KROK-2 in a manner that would not compromise the progress of academic year for third year students, and would also allow 6th year students to complete their medical education and obtain necessary degree without requiring them to return to Ukraine to give KROK-2.

2.62 On 28 April, 2022, MEA had conveyed to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) that while MEA, through its Embassies in countries neighbouring Ukraine has been exploring the possibilities of continuation of medical programmes in different years for our returnee students, there will be limitations of numbers and costs in such cases. MEA had, therefore, recommended to MoHFW that it may consider allowing Indian private medical institutions to enroll returnee students from Ukraine in their institutions on a one-time exceptional basis.

2.63 The Government of People's Republic of China had restricted travel to China by suspending visa and residence permits from 27 March 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. As per information available, approximately 20,000 Indian students were enrolled in various courses including clinical medicine courses in different Chinese universities at that time. A large number of them returned to India when all universities in China had closed down. This also included a total of 820 students, who were evacuated through three evacuation flights and Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) flights in 2020.

2.64 The Government has been taking up the matter of return of Indian students with the Chinese authorities both in New Delhi and through the Indian Embassy in China. The matter was also discussed during the meeting between External Affairs Minister of

India, Dr. S. Jaishankar and the State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Yi on 25 March 2022 in New Delhi. Following this meeting, the Chinese side has expressed its willingness to consider facilitating the return of some Indian students to China on a need-assessed basis.

2.65 In order to facilitate this process, the Indian Embassy in Beijing is preparing a list of such students which will be shared with the Chinese side for their consideration. Once the collated information is shared with the Chinese side, they would consult relevant Chinese departments to verify the list and indicate whether the identified students can travel to China to complete the course. The Chinese side has also conveyed that eligible students should unconditionally abide by the COVID-19 prevention measures, and agree to bear all expenses related to COVID-19 prevention measures by themselves. Regular updates have been given in this regard by the Embassy to the Indian students.

2.66 In addition, the Ministry of External Affairs had taken up the matter with the National Medical Commission and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to explore options to address the concerns of the affected students. National Medical Commission has issued a circular on 04 March 2022 stating that in view of the large number of Indian medical students in foreign institutions who have not been able to complete internship, National Medical Commission has decided to accept application from such affected foreign medical graduates to complete the remaining part of internship in India.

2.67 The Committee are deeply concerned about the plight of thousands of Indian students pursuing medical and other courses in Ukraine and China, who could not return back to these countries due to closure of their universities. These students have been left in a quandary as they could not re-join their courses physically or complete their internship or training in India. The Committee have been informed that MEA had recommended to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to consider allowing Indian private medical institutions to enroll returnee students from Ukraine in their institutions on a one-time exemption basis. The Committee urge the Ministry to pursue the matter with the MoHFW vigorously as this step alone may solve the current crisis being faced by the students enrolled in Ukrainian universities and enable them to complete their courses.

With regard to the Indian students enrolled in Chinese universities, the Ministry has stated that the Indian Embassy in Beijing is preparing a list of students to be shared with

the Chinese side for consideration for their return to China, on a need-assessed basis. Moreover, National Medical Commission has issued a circular on 04 March 2022 stating that it has decided to accept application from such affected foreign medical graduates to complete the remaining part of their internship in India. The Committee appreciate the efforts made in this regard and desire that the Ministry should finalize the list of students at the earliest and make all out efforts to ensure their smooth return through continuous interaction with the Chinese authorities at the Highest level, especially as COVID-19 related health protocols are in place and vaccination has also been widely done. Keeping in view the fact that China has nearly five lakhs foreign students from various countries, the Committee urge the MEA to get in touch with the Embassies of other countries so that coordinated efforts are made to facilitate the return of such students to China for resumption of their in-person classes. The Committee also urge the Ministry to coordinate with the MoHFW and National Health Commission so as to facilitate the medical students enrolled in medical colleges in China also to complete the remaining part of their internship in India.

(Recommendation No. 17)

D. Schemes to Facilitate Contributions from Diaspora Community

2.68 During the course of evidence on the subject, the Committee enquired as to how the MEA can facilitate the people who are living abroad, who wanted to pay back to the country. The Ministry, in a written reply furnished to the Committee has stated that it is working on strengthening the existing bridges between India and its diaspora, with the view, *inter-alia*, to facilitate the contribution of the diaspora who wish to give back. Various programmes like VAJRA Faculty Scheme, PRABHASS and VAIBHAV have been formulated regarding this.

(i) VAJRA Faculty Scheme

2.69 The VAJRA Faculty Scheme, launched by Hon^{ble} Prime Minister during the PBD in 2017 brings an international dimension to the R&D ecosystem of India. It taps the expertise of

International Faculty/ scientists/technologists including NRI and PIO/ OCI in highly competitive areas of research and development by offering them adjunct / visiting faculty positions in Indian Institutions / Universities. It has special focus on engaging NRI / PIO / OCIs in National R&D Programmes and thereby deepen their engagement for value addition to various S&T programmes, projects and Missions of the Government.

(ii) PRABHASS: Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark

2.70 PRABHASS: Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark - Integrating Indian Diaspora with the Mother Land is an initiative to develop a database and a virtual platform to bring on board the Global Indian S&T Community to address the Indian social challenges/problems. The main objective of PRABHASS is to invite and encourage Indian diaspora to come forward and join hands with India to help solve challenges being faced by Indian people, thereby making an impact on society at large.

2.71 Under the aegis of PRABHASS, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji inaugurated the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit, a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and academicians on Gandhi Jayanti, the 02nd October 2020. About 2600 overseas Indians registered for the summit online. About 3200 panelists and about 22,500 academicians and scientists from India and overseas participated in this month-long series of webinars. These deliberations were aligned with national goals and priorities of research in India.

2.72 The Committee are pleased to note that the Government has launched various programmes like VAJRA Faculty Scheme, PRABHASS and VAIBHAV to facilitate the diaspora community to contribute or give back to the country. The VAJRA Faculty Scheme taps the expertise of International Faculty/ scientists/technologists including NRI and PIO/OCI in highly competitive areas of research and development by offering them adjunct/visiting faculty positions in Indian Institutions/Universities while PRABHASS: Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark – Integrating Indian diaspora with the Motherland is an initiative to develop a database and a virtual platform to bring on board the Global Indian S&T Community to address the domestic social challenges/problems. Under the aegis of PRABHASS, the VAIBHAV Summit, a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian researchers and academicians was held in 2020. The Committee desire that more programmes should be conducted under the aegis of

these initiatives and wider dissemination of the Schemes should be made amongst the diaspora through the Indian Missions/Posts. The outcome of the deliberations held under these initiatives may also be integrated into the National Development Agenda.

(Recommendation No. 18)

CHAPTER III

MAJOR EVENTS/PROGRAMMES/SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF INDIAN DIASPORA

3.1 Various events, programmes and schemes are in place for the welfare of the Indian diaspora.

I. EVENTS FOR INDIAN DIASPORA

A. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

3.2 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is the flagship event of the Government which is celebrated every year on 9 January to reconnect and deepen its engagement with the diaspora. Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD once every two years and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy makers and stakeholders. The 16th PBD was organized on 9 January, 2021 entirely in virtual mode for the first time due to COVID-19 restrictions and the theme was „Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat“. The event was very well received around the globe. Five virtual PBD conferences were also held prior to the main PBD 2021 namely, (i) Role of Diaspora in Promotion of Indian Culture (ii) Dialogue with Diaspora Business Leaders & CEOs and targeting US \$ 5 trillion economy by boosting MSMEs (iii) Regional PBD & GCC- India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (iv) Forging Media & Entertainment Partnership to showcase India @ 75 and (v) Bringing together young achievers from India & Indian Diaspora.

3.3 During the course of evidence on the subject, the Committee enquired about the reasons for organizing regional PBD conferences. The Ministry, in a written reply furnished to the Committee, has stated that Regional PBDs are largely organized in collaboration with the host Government of a major country of that particular region. It has been seen that countries, which have large Indian diaspora, are usually forthcoming in collaborating with the Government of India in hosting a regional PBD. However, all efforts are made to make the outreach of these celebrations as far and wide as possible. This enables the diaspora members who otherwise cannot be present physically, to participate in the event virtually/remotely. Besides, the Ministry also host sectoral PBD conferences during which they bring in experts from a specific field to discuss how they can better integrate. Also, when the conditions are conducive, Indian Missions in various countries organize local events to enable the Indian diaspora to participate in these celebrations.

3.4 To commemorate India @ 75, the following PBD Conferences have been held so far:-

(i) PBD Conference on ‘Leveraging the Soft Power of India’

3.5 A virtual PBD conference on „Leveraging the Soft Power of India – Goodwill through Craft, Cuisine and Creativity“ was organised on 16 October 2021 by Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Diaspora Resource and Research Centre (Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad).

(ii) PBD Conference on ‘Future of Natural Resources’

3.6 A first ever engagement with diaspora on natural resources, particularly hydrocarbons was organized through a virtual PBD on „Future of Natural Resources (Hydrocarbons, Rare Earth Metals and Blue Economy)“ on 29 October 2021 by Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Earth Sciences.

(iii) Virtual Youth PBD Conference

3.7 As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations, Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held on 9 January 2022 in the form of a virtual Youth PBD Conference which focussed on tapping the innovative young talent in India and abroad towards India’s futuristic developmental agenda in the knowledge-based industry. It was held on *Role of Diaspora Youth in AKAM - Innovation and New Technologie*. The Conference aimed at deepening engagement with the rapidly growing members of diaspora - children and to showcase the new and changing India to the aspirational diaspora youth abroad. The Keynote address was given by Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan, with a special address by Shri Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog.

(iv) Virtual Regional Conference on Indian Diaspora in the EU

3.8 A virtual Regional Conference on Indian Diaspora in the EU on the theme „India’s Diaspora Dividend in the EU“ has already been organized on 23rd February 2022. The objective of the Conference was to engage effectively with the growing Indian Diaspora in the EU, who have begun to occupy prominent positions in their host countries, with a view to promote greater economic and technological cooperation and boosting investments.

3.9 The Conference was attended by prominent members of Indian diaspora from different countries in EU, including 3 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardees who spoke on subjects such as hospitality, agriculture, innovation, Science and Technology.

3.10 The Ministry has provided the details of funds allocated and utilized for organizing Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conference since 2015 as under:

Sl. No.	Events	Budget Allocated for PBD Celebration	Expenditure incurred on PBD
1.	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention 2015 on 7-9 January, Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat)	Rs. 7.53 Crore	Rs. 14.64 Crore
2.	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention 2017 on 7-9 January, Bengaluru (Karnataka)	Rs. 24.33 Crore	Rs. 13.85 Crore
3.	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2019 on 21-23 January, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	Rs. 59.77 Crore	Rs. 40.88 Crore, so far.
4.	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 2021 09 th January (Virtual mode)	Rs. 4.23 lakh	Rs. 4.23 lakh

3.11 On being asked about the level of participation of the Indian diaspora including experts, policy makers and stakeholders in such Conferences, the Ministry has stated that the level of participants include HoGs/HoSs & Ministers of Indian origin from other countries. The Conferences also have businessmen, educationists, scientists, engineers, doctors, research scholars and members of the common diaspora.

3.12 When enquired whether low/unskilled and migrant workers have also participated in such Conferences, the Ministry has informed that the participation is open for all diaspora including the migrant workers.

3.13 During evidence on the subject, the Committee further enquired whether the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is addressing the concerns of the blue collared workers who are struggling for their lives in the foreign countries. In a written reply furnished to the Committee, the Ministry has stated that PBD is a flagship programme for all Indian diaspora including the blue collared workers. Participation is open to all diaspora. In 2021, PBD was held in virtual format with wider participation from a range of countries. Grievances of the Indian diaspora have been addressed by Indian Missions abroad, Overseas Indian Affairs Division, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras and through various other platforms like CPGRAMS, MADAD etc. In the past two years, special flights (Vande Bharat) which had a focus to ensure the mobility of the diaspora even during the time of Pandemic, have been run. Various programmes like Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY), Know India Programme (KIP) and Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) have participation from mainly the blue collared working class.

3.14 On being asked to furnish the details regarding members of the diaspora community conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards so far, the Ministry has informed that the Scheme was started in 2003 and upto 15 awards were being given till the year 2015. From 2017,

the total number of awardees have been increased to 30, as the PBD is being held every alternate year since 2015. So far, 269 members of the diaspora community have been conferred with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards.

3.15 In response to a query regarding the manner in which the issues discussed during PBD conferences are translated into policy, the Secretary (CPV & OIA) during briefing on the subject on 11 January 2021 stated:

“There was one more point that you had asked about PBD and how we translate it into policy. As you know, the practice in the past had been that we would do what are called regional and sectoral PBDs in between the convention. These regional and sectoral PBDs were held either in different parts of the world or focused on, let us say, economy, banking, science and technology, and then from each of these we would generate a set of action points. Just as we are now doing, for the five PBD conferences that we have held. We generate a set of action points and then discuss it with the other concerned Ministries, maybe stakeholders in that process. For instance, on the economic side we would discuss with DEA, Finance, DPIIT, and so on, so that we can integrate these into the policy framework for the diaspora”.

3.16 When asked about the number of rounds of discussions held with concerned Ministries and stakeholders regarding the action points arising out of PBD conferences with a view to integrating the same into the policy framework for the diaspora and the achievement in this regard, the Ministry has stated that in majority of the PBD conferences, the endeavor is to get the participation of the Minister, senior dignitaries and the stakeholders of the Ministries/organizations the subject of which is under discussion during the conference so that the view expressed during these conferences become direct inputs to the concerned Department/Ministries to enable them to integrate into the policy formation. The Ministry also circulate the reports on the conference to the relevant stakeholders wherever they have not been able to participate.

3.17 The Committee also enquired whether the Government is contemplating to review the PBD scheme to ensure greater outreach and participation of low and semi-skilled workers and bring in more transparency. To this, the Ministry has informed that it uses the inputs of diaspora in deciding the future subjects of PBD conferences and the endeavor is always to have greater outreach and diverse participants in the Pravasi Bharatiya Celebrations. It was further added that since no complaints/suggestions have been received to review the PBD scheme, as such there is no proposal to review the scheme.

3.18 The Committee observe that Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is the flagship event of the Government to celebrate the contributions of Indian community abroad in the development of the country. The participants of PBDs include Head of Governments/Head

of States and Ministers of Indian origin from other countries besides businessmen, educationists, scientists, engineers, doctors, research scholars and members of the common diaspora. The Committee are further informed that the participation for PBD celebration is open for all diaspora including the migrant workers. The Committee, however, are apprehensive that low/semi-skilled and blue collar workers may not find place or feel comfortable to participate in the said celebration as the general profile of participants is seen to be of very high level. The Committee have a strong view that the participation and involvement should be more broad-based accommodating the vulnerable sections of the diaspora community too. The Committee regret to note that at present the Ministry has no proposal to review the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Events. In the opinion of the Committee, there is a need for greater outreach and diverse participation under the PBD celebrations and events. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should conduct a review on the implementation of its flagship programme viz. the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to make the 'Divas' truly representative of the 'Pravasi Bharatiya' community.

(Recommendation No. 19)

3.19 The Committee note that the action points generated out of PBD Conferences are discussed with concerned Ministries and stakeholders so that the same could be integrated into the policy framework for the diaspora. The Ministry is, however, silent on the achievement regarding integration of such action points into its diaspora policy. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to present a comprehensive details in this regard and ensure that the policy inputs out of such discussions are derived and integrated into its policy framework for the diaspora of concerned Departments / Ministries so that the PBD Conferences/Conventions become more meaningful to the diaspora community.

B. Special Conference – India’s Diaspora Focusing on Girmitiyas

3.20 The first ever Girmitiya Conference 2021 was organized virtually on 16-17 September 2021 by India Foundation and Ministry of External Affairs. The Conference’s theme was „Changing identities, shifting trends and roles“. Participants from 18 countries deliberated on the issues, contributions, successes and tribulations of Girmitiyas across the world focusing on their history, identity formation, cultural preservation and their evolving relationship with India.

3.21 During the course of evidence on 22 December 2021, the Secretary (CPV &OIA) highlighted the special focus accorded to the Girmitiya community:

“...the Girmitiya countries, that is something that is a very strong and emotional bond. Earlier this year, we held two conferences. One of them with one of the NGOs based in Delhi and the other one which is part of our pre- PBD preparations in which the members of the Girmitiya community were involved. Often their situation is quite unique. The manner in which they went and the manner in which they have consolidated their political as well as social position is something that we are extremely proud of. So, we stand with them and we try to incorporate many of the things that they said into our policies”

3.22 On being asked about the outcome of the virtual conference focusing on the Girmitiyas and the follow-up action taken in this regard, the Ministry has stated that there was a positive outcome of the first Girmitiya Conference organized in virtual mode. The following action has been taken on the recommendations of the Conference:

- (i) Ministry has written to the Ministry of Education to introduce the history of indentured labour in the school education.
- (ii) Ministry will try to conduct more events at regional level to promote interaction between India and Girmitiya countries.
- (iii) Ministry will propose to establish a Girmitiya university/faculty/chair.

3.23 In response to a query regarding special focus on Girmitiyas and involving them in our cultural tour, the Ministry has informed that special focus has been given on outreach to Indian diaspora in Girmitiya countries. Many schemes like Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY), Know India Programme (KIP) conducted for diaspora have substantial representation for Girmitiya countries. ICCR from time to time sends cultural troupes to Girmitiya countries which includes groups of Bhojpuri artists also.

3.24 The Committee note that as an outcome of the first ever Girmitiya Conference organized virtually in September 2021, the MEA has written to the Ministry of Education to introduce the history of indentured labour in the school education. The Ministry would also try to conduct more events at regional level to promote interaction between India and Girmitiya countries and would propose to establish a Girmitiya university/faculty/chair. The Committee are pleased at the positive outcome of the said Conference and urge the Ministry to take follow-up action in this regard so that the said initiatives are implemented at the earliest and the Committee may be apprised of accordingly.

(Recommendation No. 21)

C. Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz

3.25 Bharat ko Janiye (BKJ) Quiz is one of the important initiatives of the Government of India to engage Indian diaspora and friends of India. The Quiz is held for three categories of participants – Persons of Indian Origin, Non Resident Indians and Foreign nationals in the age group of 18-35 years. The winners of the preliminary round are given gold, silver & bronze medals. The winners of the final round are handed over medals during PBD. However, the third edition of BKJ Quiz (2020-21) was held online due to COVID-19 Pandemic. All the 15 winners of the final round will be invited to India for Bharat Darshan tour after the Pandemic situation normalizes.

3.26 Asked to state the category-wise level of participation under the Bharat ko Janiye Quiz, the Ministry has informed that the Quiz is open for all young persons and foreigners whether students, professionals, non-professionals, householders etc. under any one of the 3 categories viz, PIOs/OCIs; (ii) NRIs and (iii) foreigners.

3.27 The Committee note that Bharat ko Janiye Quiz is one of the important initiatives of the Government of India to engage Indian diaspora and friends of India. However, the details regarding the level of participation under the various categories has not been provided by the Ministry. The Committee desire that the Ministry should popularize the programme through wide publicity so that the number of participants, especially students,

is increased and the desired impact is achieved amongst the diaspora community. The Committee also desire that a separate category for school children should be introduced under the BKJ Quiz.

(Recommendation No. 22)

D. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) Online Quiz and MEA AKAM Week

3.28 To commemorate the occasion of India @75, Ministry is organizing „Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav“ (AKAM) online Quiz for the overseas Indian/Foreign youth to awaken the curiosity of the new generation to know more about India so that they develop an all-round understanding of India. All NRIs, PIOs and foreigners between the age of 16 to 35 years are eligible.

3.29 Asked to elaborate on the events organized and activities undertaken during the recently concluded AKAM Week along with the response received in this regard, the Ministry has stated that it celebrated its Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Week from 21 to 27 February, 2022. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister issued a message to commence the MEA AKAM Week. The message brought out the essence of AKAM celebrations being organized across India and outside under the guidance, vision and leadership of the Prime Minister.

3.30 During the MEA's AKAM Week, a series of commemorative events and activities were organized by the Ministry across the country. Over 200 events commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav were organized during the week by the Ministry, ICCR Regional Offices, Regional Passport Offices, Protector of Emigrants and Branch Secretariats located across the nation organized over 200 events commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, with participation of various stakeholders including members of the public, dignitaries, foreign diplomats, students, media etc. Events commemorating India's Freedom Struggle, Constitution, Art and Culture, Environment, Cuisine etc. were organized by the aforesaid offices throughout the week.

3.31 The Ministry successfully incorporated the guiding principles of „Jan-Bhagidari“ and „Whole of Government Approach“ in the events organized during the MEA AKAM Week. Most of the events saw the participation of members of the public across the country. In the run-up to the MEA AKAM Week, Foreign Secretary had invited all Ministries of the Government of India to join MEA in celebrating the ICONIC WEEK and also sought support from the Ministries in promoting the commemorative events in media.

3.32 In culmination, a plethora of events were organized by the Ministry during the MEA AKAM Week to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements covering the AKAM themes of Freedom Struggle, Ideas,

Resolve, Actions and Achievements. Ministry made a special effort to ensure an active and enthusiastic participation by the Foreign Missions resident in India during the MEA AKAM Week which made this week truly reflective of our ideals and practice of „Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam“.

3.33 The Committee commend the initiatives taken by the Ministry in organizing the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) online Quiz for the overseas Indian/Foreign youth and MEA AKAM Week to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements. It is also seen that during the MEA AKAM Week, a series of commemorative events and activities were organized by the Ministry across the country with participation of various stakeholders including members of the public, dignitaries, foreign diplomats, students, media etc. The Committee note that the Ministry has made special efforts to ensure active and enthusiastic participation by the residents of Foreign Missions in India also during the MEA AKAM Week to make it truly reflective of our ideals and practice of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’. The Committee are of the view that these initiatives will bring the Indian diaspora community closer to their roots, foster the sense of patriotism amongst Indian nationals in the country and abroad as well as promote Indian culture and its soft power projection abroad. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to organize events on themes related to the history and culture of India annually through the Indian Missions/Posts abroad and make the celebration of MEA AKAM Week an annual affair.

(Recommendation No. 23)

II. ENGAGEMENTS WITH NRIs

A. State Outreach Programme – Videsh Sampark

3.34 The Ministry of External Affairs also commenced engagement with the State Governments so that more effective and efficient engagement with the diaspora can be achieved. Therefore, in 2017, MEA launched State outreach programme under the banner “Videsh

Sampark” to seek cooperation in addressing issues pertaining to welfare and protection of NRIs living abroad and also to brief the State Governments about the Ministry’s initiatives pertaining to engagement and welfare of the overseas Indian community and curbing illegal migration. In 2017-18, various events were organized with State Governments of Telangana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and in the year 2020, it was organized in the State of Karnataka. The Ministry has also sought willingness from some of the States to organize such events during the current financial year.

3.35 When asked about the response from the State Governments under the Videsh Sampark and the action plan for greater engagement with the State Governments under the programme, the Ministry has informed that the Videsh Sampark Programme, initiated in the year 2017, is an in-depth dialogue between the Ministry of External Affairs and the State Governments with the objective of welfare and protection of the Overseas Indian Community and strengthening India’s engagement with its diaspora.

3.36 The Conference provides an opportunity to brainstorm with the State Governments about how to work closely with them to address the above issues. The response so far was good but the programmes could not be undertaken recently because of the spread of COVID Pandemic.

3.37 The first Videsh Sampark programme was held on 13.05.2017 in Telangana. The subsequent State Outreach Events were organized in partnership with the State Governments of Maharashtra (2017), Kerala (2017), Gujarat (2018), Madhya Pradesh (2018) and Karnataka in 2020. Under this, a day-long conference is held in the State capital to brief senior officials and stakeholders in the State regarding:-

- the initiatives, programmes and schemes pertaining to the steps taken by the Ministry to expedite passport services, e-Sanad, e-Migrate, welfare and protection measures for overseas Indians.
- information about diaspora engagement initiatives of the Ministry, including Pre-departure Orientation Training, Know India Programme, Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, Welfare of Indian students studying abroad, speedy resolution of disputes related to NRI marriages etc.
- exploring possibilities for cooperation with the State Government in various areas especially enhancing delivery of consular services and effectively addressing illegal migration and cooperation with the State Government in taking action against unscrupulous recruiting agents.

3.38 The Committee note that the Ministry has launched State Outreach Programme in 2017 under the banner ‘Videsh Sampark’ which is an in-depth dialogue between Ministry

of External Affairs and State Governments with the objective of seeking cooperation in addressing issues pertaining to welfare and protection of NRIs living abroad and also to brief the State Governments about the Ministry's initiatives pertaining to engagement and welfare of the overseas Indian community and curbing illegal migration. However, only six States viz, Telangana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka could so far be covered under the programme because of the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Committee are of the view that welfare and protection of Indian diaspora as well as deeper engagement with the said community could be effectively achieved only with the active participation of the State Governments and also by maintaining close coordination with them. The Committee, therefore urge the Ministry to organize more 'Videsh Sampark' programmes prioritizing the States with migration hotspots and thereafter in other States in a time bound manner since the COVID-19 Pandemic situation has improved. The Committee also urge the Ministry to share with this Committee the outcome of Videsh Sampark programmes held so far and step up its efforts of coordination and closer interaction with the State Governments for successful implementation of its programmes and schemes.

(Recommendation No. 24)

B. Indian Community Welfare Fund

3.39 Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) has already been set up in all Indian Missions and Posts abroad to meet the contingency expenditure incurred by them for carrying out various on-site welfare activities for overseas Indian citizens on a means-tested basis. The ICWF guidelines have been comprehensively revised w.e.f. 1 September 2017. The revised guidelines have considerably expanded the scope of on-site welfare activities for the benefit of distressed Indian nationals that could be extended through the Fund. The guidelines cover three key areas namely; assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations (boarding and lodging, air passage, legal assistance, emergency medical care, transportation of mortal remains), community welfare activities and improvement in consular services. They now also include provisions for

setting up of legal panels in countries with sizable Indian diaspora, payment of fines/penalty for petty crimes for release of prisoners and assistance to distressed Indian women abroad. Since 2014 till November 2020, more than INR 423 crores of funds has been utilized and around 2,40,000 Indians were extended assistance.

3.40 The amount collected/raised and utilized under the ICWF during 2019-2021 along with the number of beneficiaries assisted, year and embassy/mission/country-wise is placed at **Annexure II**.

3.41 Out of the total amount of Rs. 2,878,524,356.18 collected, Rs. 2,458,533,922.68 has been utilized for 207644 beneficiaries during the said period. An amount of Rs. 479 crores is available in the ICWF as on 31st December, 2021.

3.42 During the current COVID-19 Pandemic, Indian Missions/Posts abroad proactively helped distressed/stranded Indian nationals from ICWF in accordance with extant guidelines. Around Rs. 43.16 crores was utilized to extend assistance as on September, 2021.

3.43 Asked to state the country-wise number of distressed/stranded Indian nationals provided assistance under the Indian Community Welfare Fund along with the total funds spent in this regard during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Ministry has informed that 171,600 distressed/stranded Indian nationals were provided assistance till 31st October 2021 and approximately, Rs. 44.19 crore was incurred.

3.44 The Committee observed that funds under ICWF are transferred from one Mission/Post to another and enquired about the reasons for the same wherein the Ministry has informed that additional funds are being sought by some Missions/Posts who had to incur expenditure beyond the ICWF collected by them. The funds are being transferred on the basis of merits and with the approval of the competent authority.

3.45 When enquired whether complaints regarding non-disbursal of funds to the applicants under ICWF, particularly during the COVID -19 Pandemic and misuse of the said fund including for modernization and creation of more facilities for embassy buildings have been received, the Ministry has stated that no complaints has been received in this regard.

3.46 On being asked whether the Ministry has any plan to further expand the scope under the Indian Community Welfare Fund and whether the allocation for ICWF has been adequate keeping in view the huge population of the Indian diaspora, the Ministry has stated that the latest guidelines of ICWF dated 1 September 2017 are exhaustive in nature and as of now, they are serving well. The funds collected under ICWF have been adequate for the Indian diaspora abroad.

3.47 When enquired about the number of countries in which legal panels have been set up so far under ICWF and the number of persons assisted in this regard, the Ministry has stated that all Indian Missions/Posts where there is substantial number of Indian workers have legal panels.

3.48 To a query whether the Ministry has received any complaint regarding cumbersome guidelines for availing assistance from overseas Indian nationals under the ICWF, the Ministry has stated that no specific complaint has been received.

3.49 The Committee appreciate the assistance rendered to distressed/stranded Indian nationals abroad under the ICWF during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The funds collected under the ICWF have been adequate for the Indian diaspora abroad and an amount of Rs. 429 crore is available in the ICWF as on 31 December 2021. The Committee also observe that in case some Missions/Posts had to incur expenditure beyond the ICWF collected by them, funds are transferred from one Mission/Post to another upon request. The Committee acknowledge that due to various unforeseen circumstances like the COVID-19 Pandemic, political crisis requiring evacuation of Indian nationals, natural disasters etc., some Missions/Posts might require additional funds and desire that the Ministry should have an institutional arrangement to assist such Missions/Posts to meet any eventuality. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should facilitate transfer of funds from one Mission/Post to another upon request after ensuring its merit expeditiously.

(Recommendation No. 25)

3.50 The Committee note that the ICWF guidelines have been revised *w.e.f* 1 September 2017 considerably expanding the scope of on-site welfare activities for the benefit of distressed Indian nationals who could be assisted through the Fund. The revised guidelines now include provisions for setting up of legal panels in countries with sizeable Indian diaspora, payment of fines/penalty for petty crimes for release of prisoners and assistance to distressed Indian women abroad. The Committee further note that all Indian Missions/Posts, where there are a substantial number of Indian workers, have legal panels.

However, keeping in view the fact that migrant workers and distressed Indian women, who are the most vulnerable sections of the diaspora community, are in almost all the countries but may not have the resources for legal assistance in case of need, the Committee recommend that legal panels may be set up in all the Indian Missions/Posts having diaspora community, irrespective of the size of the diaspora.

(Recommendation No. 26)

Repatriation of Mortal Remains of Indians who Die Abroad

3.51 During the course of evidence on the subject, the difficulty in bringing the mortal remains of Indians who died abroad was pointed out and the Ministry was asked as to how the procedure could be simplified. The Ministry, in a written reply, has stated that it attaches highest importance to the issue of repatriation of mortal remains of Indians who died abroad and work earnestly through our Missions/Posts abroad to ensure the expeditious transportation of mortal remains to India. Emergency contact numbers are available on the websites of all Missions/Posts abroad for 24X7 help to Indians. Phone numbers of Ambassador and other officers are also available on respective websites.

3.52 The Ministry has also furnished the salient features of the assistance provided by our Missions/Posts to the families of Indian nationals who died abroad as under:

- (i) Registration of death in the Mission/Post abroad: There exists a single window clearance in all Indian Missions/Posts for death cases. As soon as the Embassy comes to know of such unfortunate death of an Indian national, the Consular Wing of the Missions/ Posts immediately gets in touch with the family/relative of the deceased Indian national as well as the local authorities to facilitate the completion of necessary formalities in coordination with the local police authorities and transportation of mortal remains in accordance with the wishes of the family of the deceased at the earliest possible.
- (ii) Transportation of mortal remains: Indian Missions/ Posts liaise with different authorities in the foreign country and concerned State authorities for
 - Medical report / death certificate issued from the hospital concerned;
 - Police report (with English translation, if report is in some other language), in case of accidental or unnatural death;
 - Consent letter from next of kin of the deceased for local cremation/burial/ transportation of mortal remains;
 - Clearance and arrangements for embalming of mortal remains from the authorities concerned in the foreign country;

- Clearance from local immigration/customs department.
- Clearance from Indian customs authorities.

3.53 These local procedures for transportation of mortal remains differ from country to country. The time taken in obtaining necessary clearances etc. depends upon the local rules in foreign countries. However, Indian Missions/ Posts try their best to expedite the transportation.

3.54 As regards whether the Ministry has any plan to simplify the ICWF guidelines including transportation of mortal remains, the Ministry has stated that it does not have any plan at present to simplify the latest guidelines issued on 1st September, 2017 as the same has simplified the process covering almost all aspects of ICWF including transportation of mortal remains. Head of Missions/Head of Posts have adequate delegated power to take on the spot decision without referring to the Ministry in most of the cases.

3.55 The Committee note that though the Ministry attaches highest importance to the issue of expeditious transportation of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad, several instances of facing extreme difficulties have come to notice in bringing the dead bodies back home. Hence, the Committee felt the need for simplification of procedures in this regard. However, it is seen that at present the Ministry has no plans to simplify the latest guidelines of the ICWF as it has already simplified almost all aspects of ICWF guidelines including the process for transportation of mortal remains. The Ministry has also stated that the local procedures for transportation of mortal remains differ from country to country and the time taken in obtaining necessary clearances etc., depends upon the local rules in foreign countries. The Committee, therefore, desire that utmost priority should be attached to the humanitarian concerns relating to the transportation of mortal remains of Indian nationals who die abroad and all out efforts should be made by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad to ensure the expeditious transportation of the mortal remains. Head of Missions/Head of Posts may be proactive in coordinating with the local authorities for obtaining the necessary clearances and utilize their delegated powers whenever there is a delay.

C. Welfare/Protection of Indian Emigrants Holding ECR Passport

3.56 The Government has taken several steps to safeguard the interests of Indian emigrants in the Gulf and other Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries. These include:

(i) The on-line MADAD portal enables the emigrant workers and their family members to register their consular grievances on-line and track their redressal.

(ii) Grievances related to overseas employment in notified ECR countries can also be lodged directly by emigrants/relatives or through the Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra ordinarily on e-Migrate portal, relating to employment. These grievances are settled by respective jurisdictional Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) as per laid down procedures.

(iii) Indian Missions conduct Open Houses on a regular basis where workers can speak on their working conditions and seek redressal of their grievances.

(iv) A multilingual 24X7 Helpline of Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra in New Delhi provides information, guidance and grievance redressal on all issues and problems pertaining to overseas employment of Indian nationals.

(v) Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras have been set up abroad at Dubai (UAE), Riyadh, Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to provide guidance and counseling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers. Missions have also established 24x7 Helplines and Toll Free Helplines for the benefit of Indian workers to seek help.

(vi) Kshetriya Pravasi Sahayata Kendras (KPSK) have been set up in Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow and Delhi to assist emigrants or their relatives to redress their problems/complaints regarding overseas employment.

(vii) Grievances brought to the notice of the Ministry and the Missions through social media including twitter are promptly addressed.

(viii) Women who are Emigration Clearance Required passport holders can travel abroad to ECR countries for employment only if they are 30 years and above through 10 State Government recruitment agencies. In case of Foreign Employer (FE) directly recruiting an Indian women emigrant, the FE must deposit a security of US\$ 2500 in the form of Bank Guarantee (BG) with the Indian Mission. POEs may seek a copy of the bank guarantee duly attested by the Indian Mission so as to ensure that emigration clearance is granted only in case the BG has been deposited by the FE with the Indian Mission.

(ix) Since Recruiting Agents (RAs) are key stakeholders in the emigration process, relaxations have been given to RAs like, reduced bank guarantees and reduced office space requirements to tide over the financial crisis due to COVID-19.

3.57 During the course of evidence on the subject, the Committee wanted to know the reason for multiplicity of complaint portals like MADAD, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras, e-Migrate etc. The Ministry, in a written reply, has stated that MADAD is for consular complaints in general. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras and e-Migrate are for complaints related to workers who have emigrated abroad for employment.

(i) MADAD Portal and Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras

3.58 The MADAD portal was launched in February 2015 for online redressal of consular grievances of Indians in distress abroad. MADAD is one of the flagship citizen services rendered by MEA. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras supplement the work being done through MADAD portal. e-Migrate portal is primarily for addressing all matters related to recruitment and employment of emigrants and is not a general grievance redressal portal. However, it does handles recruitment/employment related grievances of migrant workers. e-Migrate is, thus, a sub-portal for MADAD, handling a specific area. MADAD and e-Migrate portals are also interlinked. MADAD remains the primary platform for registering grievances for Indians residing abroad though consular grievances are also received through CPGRAM, mainly from family members of NRIs residing in India.

3.59 Elaborating on the mechanism for redressal of complaints of migrant workers, the Secretary (CPV&OIA) during the course of evidence on 29 June 2021 stated:

“There are, as you know, two principal platforms on which these complaints are registered but for our purposes, they are inter-transferable and merged together. The first and the original one is the service called MADAD, where people can register their complaints. These go directly to the person, or to the Mission or to the Division where the complaints are to be lodged and addressed and there is an automatic escalation process. The second system is through the e-Migrate. As we know, all migrant workers, particularly the vulnerable communities of ECR go through the e-Migrate platform. Therefore, they are all familiar with the e-Migrate platform. So, we have a facility of registering complaints in the e-Migrate as well. Over here, a lot of the complaints which are then addressed, are directed to the recruiting agencies by the concerned Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) and the responses are taken. In many cases, they reside with the Embassies who would then respond. For our purposes, in the Ministry of External Affairs, the two of them actually get merged and we have a similar process for addressing them. The redressal process has been very robust and because of the escalation process that we have within it which goes up to the Ambassadors and the Heads of Divisions, the response level is very high and in fact, we have been complimented by the e-Governance mechanism of the Government for the very high rate of response of MADAD”.

3.60 Responding to the query of the Committee regarding multiplicity of grievance portals during briefing on 11 January 2021, the Secretary (CPV & OIA) stated:

“You mentioned about the multiplicity of portals. MADAD is the first one for grievance redressal. What we find often is that people are familiar with a certain portal and therefore we have not given up MADAD, although we have a certain grievance mechanism in e-Migrate. There is another thing called CPGRAMS which is nationwide, for the entire Government goes down to the district level. In fact, it is a very effective mechanism. But while it is more popular over here within the country, it is not as popular overseas. People overseas still relate first to MADAD. So, I think in some ways, despite the fact that we have multiplicity of portals, it serves certain segmented areas which are more familiar. Of course, we tell them about different portals so that they can choose which is the one they are familiar with. Very often for us, we find that if we have to have an interaction with the State Governments or district police, the CPGRAMS portal is the quickest way to get to them because it is connected down to the thana level. So, it has certain advantages. I think each of them has their own merits. But I feel as long as it responds to the questions, it is okay”.

3.61 The Committee enquired about the number of emigrant workers who have registered their grievances on the on-line MADAD portal and through the Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra/e-Migrate portal and the status of redressal of such grievances so far. The Ministry has provided the following information on 11 January, 2022:-

E/I, Baghdad: During the period under review, 20 redressal & grievances have been received on the on-line MADAD portal and work are in progress for most of them and rest are solved. Due care has been taken of all the grievances received by the Embassy.

CGI Dubai, UAE: As per the available records, a total of 6,428 grievances were registered on MADAD Portal so far since its inception in 2014, out of which 4,204 grievances are registered by the emigrant workers. As of date 115, grievances pertaining to emigrant workers remains unresolved on MADAD portal.

3.62 The details of Labour Grievances registered through various channels like calls, walk-in, e-mails, Whatsapp and other Social Media Accounts w.e.f 01/11/2020 to 30/12/2021 are given below:

S.No.	Issues	No. of Grievances
1.	Salary Issues	410
2.	Labour/Visa/entry permit cancellation	296
3.	Passport with Employer/Immigration/Agent	270
4.	End of Service Benefit related	180
5.	Contract problems/absconding/overstay	102
6.	Worker Abuse	25
	Total	1283

3.63 A total number of 512 legal counseling have been conducted for Labour related grievances and also 295 legal counseling were conducted for Labour related information. A total number of 4013 informative interactions were made on various labour related queries.

E-migrate Portal: Country -wise data is not visible in the e-Migrate system.

3.64 On receipt of grievance from public through walk-in, emails, MADAD Portal, e-Migrate, Social Media Accounts, PBSK toll free number, Mobile App and Whatsapp - the Consulate proactively takes up the matter at an appropriate level on case by case basis with the employer/sponsor or local authorities for earliest redressal/resolution of the public grievances.

E/I, Riyadh: Till 31/12/2021, 20,864 Indian nationals have registered their grievances on the online MADAD portal and PBSK/e-Migrate portal of which 19729 have been resolved and 629 grievances are still pending under various stages of processing.

CGI, Jeddah: Till 31/12/2021, 17,154 Indian nationals have registered their grievances on the online MADAD portal and PBSK/e-Migrate portal of which 14520 have been resolved and 2634 grievances are still pending under various stages of processing.

E/I, Kuwait: The number of grievances registered and resolved on MADAD portal (PBSK/eMigrate) in 2021 is provided below:

Total Grievances on MADAD		Grievances registered through PBSK		Emigrate linked grievances	
Registered	Closed (by CPV division)	Registered	Closed (by CPV division)	Registered	Closed (by CPV Division)
974	257	18	5	244	68

E/I, Doha:

Grievances on MADAD related to emigrant workers	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Registered	Resolved Closed	Regd.	Resolved Closed	Regd.	Resolved Closed	Regd.	Resolved Closed
Total	12	12	152	149	230	211	137	106
Regd. By PBSK	5	5	5	5	4	3	3	3

E/I, Beirut: On the MADAD Portal, mostly grievances pertaining to receiving of mortal remains from this station and settlement of Insurance claims by the relatives of the deceased are registered and all of them have been successfully attended to in the last couple of years. Since the October-19 revolution and the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, a large number of Indian emigrant workers who are staying illegally, directly approached this Mission for

assistance. Their issues were taken up by this Mission with the local General Security authorities and more than 1000 Indian workers were evacuated by three Community Chartered flights in 2020, after their penalties were waived by the local security authorities. No grievances were registered in the PBSK/e-Migrate portal.

E/I, Muscat: During the period from January 2021 to December 2021, this Embassy received 243 grievances in MADAD portal, out of which 145 complaints have been resolved and 98 cases are under process.

PoE, Guwahati: As far as PoE Guwahati is concerned, two emigrants have registered grievances through on-line mode. Both have been forwarded to the concerned RA for resolution in a fixed timeframe.

PoE, Jaipur:

The country-wise details of grievances registered as of now are given below:

Country	Number of GR registered	Closed/Resolved	Pending
Malaysia	1	0	1
Canada	1	0	1
India	2	2	0
Oman	30	25	5
Qatar	74	43	31
Saudi Arabia	52	37	15
UAE	23	20	3
Kuwait	53	20	33
Bahrain	2	2	0
Total	238	149	89

PoE, Bengaluru:

No. of applications raised since inception	No. of applications closed/ forwarded to other PoE offices till 31.12.2021	No. of applications pending
27	22	5

PoE, Trivandrum:

3.65 A total of 119 grievance has been registered under the jurisdiction of POE Trivandrum on e- Migrate portal till date. Currently, only 16 grievances are pending for redressal. The following are the grievances received, country-wise:

Name of the country	No. of grievance received	Grievance resolved	Grievance pending
Saudi Arabia	80	73	7
Bahrain	4	3	1

Canada	2	1	1
Germany	1	1	0
Kuwait	14	9	5
Maldives	1	1	0
Oman	2	1	1
Poland	2	1	1
Qatar	6	6	0
UAE	7	7	0
Total	119	103	16

PoE, Hyderabad:

3.66 The country-wise details of grievances registered as of now are given below:

Country	Number of GR registered	Closed/Resolved	Pending
Australia	1	1	
Bahrain	5	4	1
Canada	4	3	1
India	1		1
Kuwait	203	77	126
Lithuania	14		
Malaysia	1	1	
Oman	19	7	12
Qatar	30	8	22
Saudi Arabia	11	7	4
UAE	81	55	26
Total	370	163	193

PoE, Cochin: Grievances details (w.e.f 2015 to till date)

Total-246

Closed-157

Active -89 (as on 31.12.2021)

PoE, Cochin has taken up with all concerned RAs to redress the grievances of emigrants at the earliest and has also undertaken initiatives to pursue with RAs for closure of the settled grievances.

PoE, Delhi: 770 emigrant workers have registered their grievances on the e-Migrate portal under the jurisdiction of PoE, Delhi as on 28.12.2021. 344 grievances have been closed and 326 grievances are pending as on 28.12.2021. The country-wise data of grievances is not available separately for PoE, Delhi on the e-Migrate portal.

PoE, Chennai: Pertains to helpdesk and Missions

3.67 A total of 898 grievances are pending under e-Migrate while 714 grievances have been solved. Under the MADAD portal, 502 grievances are pending and 226 grievances have been solved. The total number of grievances solved under both e-Migrate and MADAD are 947 while 2354 grievances are pending as on 11 January 2022.

(ii) Emigration Management Bill

3.68 The Committee also enquired about the status of the Emigration Management Bill, the time by which it is likely to be introduced in Parliament and the efforts being made to make the Bill more comprehensive wherein the Ministry has stated that the Emigration Bill, 2022 seeks to replace the Emigration Act, 1983 and aims to consolidate and amend the law related to emigration of citizens of India. The proposed legislation seeks to establish a robust, transparent and comprehensive emigration framework, liberalizes emigration clearances, facilitates hassle free, safe and orderly migration, harnesses our demographic dividend, empowers our migrants proceeding for overseas employment and strengthens their welfare and protection during all stages of migration. The framework also includes State Governments, Union Territories and other stakeholders.

3.69 The Committee have been apprised that the Bill is in advanced stage of final consultations and final vetting and once the requisite formalities are complete, the Bill will be presented to the Union Cabinet for seeking approval to table the Bill in the Parliament.

3.70 The Committee observe that multiple grievance Portals such as MADAD, e-Migrate, and CPGRAMS exist in addition to Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras for online redressal of grievances of Indian nationals abroad. MADAD is the primary platform for consular complaints in general while e-Migrate is for addressing all matters related to recruitment and employment of workers including related grievances. The Ministry has further stated that consular grievances are also received through CPGRAMS, mainly from family members of NRIs residing in India. While acknowledging that MADAD and e-Migrate portal are interlinked and e-Migrate is also a sub-portal for MADAD handling a specific area, the Committee are apprehensive that multiple grievance Portals might lead to delay in resolving the grievances of Indian nationals abroad. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure that multiplicity of grievance portals do not lead to duplication

or overlapping of work or difficulty in sieving the complaints/grievances registered so as to ensure quick and satisfactory resolution of the grievances of the Indian workers abroad and make the desired modification in this regard.

(Recommendation No. 28)

3.71 The Committee note the CPGRAMS portal is the quickest way to interact with the State Governments or district police as it is connected down to the thana level. Despite its advantages, the CPGRAMS portal is not as popular overseas as it is within the country. In view of the fact that the resolution of grievances in most cases may require a connect with the local level, the Committee desire that the Ministry should generate more awareness regarding the CPGRAMS Portal among the Indian nationals abroad too so that the Portal can serve as an effective tool in speedy redressal of their grievances.

(Recommendation No. 29)

3.72 The Committee note that a large number of grievances have been registered on the online MADAD portal/e-Migrate portal over the years but the status of redressal of such grievances has been far from satisfactory. The number of grievances unresolved/pending in the various Embassies, Consulates and offices of the Protector of Emigrants are quite high. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvements in the grievance redressal system so that all the pending cases are resolved within a specified timeframe and the response time is also reduced to the minimum. The Committee may also be apprised of the specific steps being taken/proposed to achieve the same.

(Recommendation No. 30)

3.73 The Committee note that the Emigration Bill, 2022 which seeks to establish a robust, transparent and comprehensive emigration framework involving State Governments, Union Territories and other stakeholders has been under consultation and vetting for long. The Committee urge the Ministry to complete all the formalities at the earliest and introduce the Bill in Parliament so as to ensure the welfare/protection of Indian migrants and empower them for overseas employment.

(Recommendation No. 31)

D. Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana

3.74 The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a mandatory insurance scheme for all Emigration Check Required (ECR) category workers going to ECR countries. The scheme provides an insurance cover of INR 10 lakhs in case of accidental death or permanent disability and other benefits at a nominal insurance premium of INR 275/- for two years or INR 375/- for three years validity. The Scheme, initially launched in 2003, has been amended in 2006, 2008 and 2017 with the overarching objective of expanding the benefits for emigrant workers.

3.75 The revised PBBY, 2017 operational w.e.f. 1 August 2017 has made settlement of claims simpler for the benefit of workers and is aimed at ensuring expeditious settlement of claims. It now provides for:

- (i) Global coverage irrespective of change of employer, employee's location and place of work
- (ii) Acceptance by insurance companies of certification of accidental death/permanent disability by Indian missions/posts abroad; and
- (iii) Facility for online renewal and copy of insurance policy is to be made available to the nominee(s).

3.76 The Government promptly takes up the matter with the concerned insurance companies whenever any representation regarding settlement of claims is received.

3.77 The claimants under the scheme belong to various professions as defined under section 2(o) of the Emigration Act, which are as follows:

- (i) Any unskilled work, including any form of industrial or agricultural labour;
- (ii) Any domestic service;

- (iii) Any service, not being a service in a managerial capacity, in any hotel, restaurant, tea-house or other place of public resort;
- (iv) Work as a driver of a truck or other vehicle, mechanic, technician or skilled labourer or artisan;
- (v) Work as an office assistant or accountant or typist or stenographer or salesman or nurse or operator of any machine;
- (vi) Work in connection with, or for the purposes of, any cinema, exhibition or entertainment;

3.78 Since the launch of e-Migrate portal in 2014, the Government has been issuing online Emigration Clearance. Under PBBY, 3,59,666 policies were issued from the Financial Year 2010-11 till September, 2021.

3.79 The available details regarding the number of insurance claims received, settled and pending since 2017 under the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, year-wise are as under:

Years	No. of Policies issued	No. Claims received	No. Claims Settled	Percentage of Claims settlement
2016-17	518961	194	109	56%
2017-18	397157	204	89	44%
2018-19	374874	118	81	69%
2019-20*	389314	89	35	39%
2020-21*	40627	72	38	53%
2021-22*	54010	55	36	53%
Total	6800686	2915	2112	72%

* Estimated

3.80 The reasons for pendency of claims and the efforts made by the Ministry to settle such claims expeditiously are as follows:

- Copy of PBBY Policy is not given to nominee nor are they informed by any other means about the purchase of the policy.
- Policy is being obtained by RA, worker not informed. They are not aware of the benefits being offered.
- Claims are declared Time-barred (not being submitted in 90 days) often due to situations beyond the control of the emigrant worker or his nominee.

- Change of Profession in Labour Card in host country is used as ground for denying the claim. This should not be done as long as the profession is covered under section 2(o) of Emigration Act.
- Change in employer or employee location should not be used as ground for denying claim.
- Timely updation of data by companies on e-migrate is not done.

3.81 Ministry invariably takes up the matter with the concerned insurance companies on receipt of any complaint.

3.82 Asked to state the average time taken for settlement of claims along with the rate of settlement of claims under the PBBY, the Ministry has stated that the requisite information was sought from the insurance companies. The response from them is awaited and will be conveyed to the Standing Committee on its receipt.

3.83 When enquired whether all the ECR category workers have been covered under the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, the Committee have been informed that PBBY is a mandatory insurance scheme for all ECR category workers going to ECR countries. Thus all ECR category workers are covered under PBBY. Since 2017, it is also available for ECNR passport holders.

3.84 On being asked the number of ECR category workers and ECNR passport holders covered so far under the PBBY separately, the Ministry has provided the information on 22 March 2022 as under:

ECR : **29,27,071**
ECNR : **37,868**

3.85 As regards the manner in which the Ministry collate authentic information regarding all ECR category migrant workers going to ECR countries, the Committee have been informed that all ECR passport holders going for employment to ECR countries have to obtain Emigration Clearance from the Protector of Emigrants and hence, their data is maintained/captured by e-Migrate.

3.86 The Committee note that the number of insurance policies issued under the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana has gone down since 2017-18 with drastic reductions in the number during 2020-21 and 2021-22 as compared to the earlier years. Since 2016-17, only 2915 claims have been received upto 2021-22 out of which 2112 claims have been settled which is far from satisfactory. The Ministry has revealed in this regard that the insurance

companies rejecting the claims of the migrant workers on flimsy grounds has been the reasons for pendency of claims. Keeping in view the fact that migrants workers are the most vulnerable section of the diaspora community, the Committee are of the view that special protection is needed for these poor and simple workers so that they are not left at the mercy of insurance companies. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the cause of these workers and ensure that their claims are settled by the insurance companies expeditiously. Efforts may also be made to increase the number of insurance policies issued so that all the eligible workers are covered under the PBBY.

(Recommendation No. 32)

E. Pre-Departure Orientation Training

3.87 Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) programmes are aimed at enhancing soft skills of Indian migrant workers largely going to the Gulf region and Malaysia, in terms of culture, language, tradition and local rules and regulations of the destination country, to sensitize migrant workers about pathways to safe and legal migration and various Government programmes for their welfare and protection. The initiative has been a success and is being expanded further.

3.88 During the course of evidence on 22 December, 2021 the Secretary (CPV & OIA) further elaborated on the PDOT programme:

“We, as the Ministry of External Affairs, have developed something called as PDOT, which is Pre-Departure Orientation Training. The PDOT is the soft skill which is delivered over one day. What it does is, it tells the migrant workers, particularly those who are going for the first time, what they would expect when they go overseas. We have a set of a little language help, cultural help, and how they can negotiate with their employers and very importantly to tell them and to assure them that the embassies overseas are their friends and they should always approach the embassies in case of any need.

We have also launched a very vigorous advertising campaign involving many of the prominent personalities in different languages to spread out this message so that we can have safe and legal migration. This is particularly available for the more vulnerable sections. During COVID-19, we saw that there was a decline in number of people going overseas. Obviously, the PDOT numbers had also gone down. There was an innovation, like many other innovations that came up during COVID-19. This was an online PDOT

programme and through this programme we found that we were able to reach out to many, many more people.

There were two things that were really striking about this outreach, that I wanted to mention. First is that the number of women participating in the online PDOT programme was much higher than ever before. We were very, very enthused by it. Second was that people in far flung villages were also joining this particular PDOT programme. That, of course, was something that was very encouraging. We are also extending the PDOT centres. We are planning to have 100 centres by the end of next year. We are going on an aggressive campaign to have training of trainers so that they can be trained effectively, even for the physical format”.

3.89 The Ministry has further stated that PDO curriculum content has been standardized all over the country. Comprehensive PDO Manuals for Master Trainers have been developed in seven languages i.e. Hindi, English, Bangla, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu. Similarly, Handbooks for migrant workers have also been developed in eight languages i.e. Hindi, English, Bangla, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi and Urdu. Presently, these handbooks are distributed to prospective migrant workers attending One Day PDO Training at Mumbai, Delhi, Kochi and Lucknow.

3.90 Since January 2018, Ministry has rolled out PDOT Programmes in a structured manner as part of the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Till now, 31 PDOT Centres have been opened for Pre-Departure Orientation Training. The training continued upto 16 March 2020, after which it had to be stopped due to the Lockdown imposed in the country due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The training was resumed w.e.f 16.11.2020. As on 30th September, 2021, 1,03,019/- migrant workers have undergone PDO Training. Shri V. Murleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs addressed the special event on reaching of landmark figure of one lakh participants. The Ministry also launched the first online Pre-departure Orientation Training Programme on 7 April 2021 with an objective to provide pre-departure orientation training to prospective migrants who are not in a position to attend the in-person training.

3.91 On being asked to furnish the details regarding the budgetary allocations, major activities and actual expenditure incurred under each activity under the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana since its inception, the Ministry has informed that a sum of Rs.9.99 crores had been transferred to MSDE on 23 March 2017 for implementation of PKVY. After implementation of pilot project, MSDE has been using the amount for implementation of one-day PDOT through NSDC. No further budget was sought by MEA under PKVY since 2019-20. As mentioned earlier, MEA is implementing one-day PDOT through State Governments (17 centres), NSDCs (10 centres). The budget is being sought under PDOT.

3.92 The year-wise budget allocation under PDOT head for MEA is as under:

S. No.	Financial Year	Budget Estimate (in INR)
1.	2017-18	0.5 crores
2.	2018-19	0.5 crores
3.	2019-20	3.0 crores
4.	2020-21	0.2 crores*
5.	2021-22	7.0 crores

* The budget for 2020-21 was reduced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

3.93 The budget for PDOT could be increased based on expansion of the project, i.e., opening of new centres in various States.

3.94 The details of PDOT centres set up and the number of persons trained as on 28 February 2022, year/centre and State-wise is at **Annexure III**.

3.95 When asked about the areas and scope for expansion of PDOT, the Ministry has stated that through the PDOT initiative, the Ministry has been able to spread awareness about safe and legal migration and also acquaint workers with rules and regulation of the destination countries. More than 900 master trainers have been trained and certified by India Centre for Migration as on date which impart one day PDOT training at 31 PDOT centres across the country. Further, the Ministry is in the process of opening many more PDOT centres at major overseas migration specific places in the country to take the total number from 31 to 100 to cover those parts of the country which are not covered so far including north-eastern region. For new centres, the Ministry is also expanding its partners beyond NSDC to include industry bodies such as CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM and Common Services Centre e-Governance service India Limited of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and will also be working in close collaboration of States.

3.96 On being asked about the broad parameters for selecting States for setting up P-DOT Centres and the basis for preparation of training module and curriculum, the Ministry has informed that States for setting up of PDOT Centers are being selected on the basis of number of workforce/emigrants going for overseas employment therefrom. The training module and curriculum have been prepared on the basis of Ministry's experience with the problems faced by the migrants in respective countries, inputs provided by respective Missions and necessary legal framework for labourers and emigrants in respective countries. The Ministry is in touch with various State Governments to open new PDOT centre as per their requirements.

3.97 When enquired about the response received regarding online P-DOT and the future plan in this regard, the Ministry has informed that online PDOT was launched in April 2021 to reach out to prospective emigrants who live far away from PDOT centres. 6 online PDOT centers are operational in 5 cities namely Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Hyderabad and Vijayawada. The Ministry has seen very positive response from participants especially women participants. This initiative is helping the Ministry in delivering training to more migrants. Ministry intends to continue online PDOT training post COVID and provide both online and in-person training options to prospective emigrants.

3.98 During the Study visit of the Committee to Leh, Chandigarh and Shimla from 17 to 21 May 2022, the Ministry has informed that currently, 31 PDOT Centres are operational in the country. Further, opening of another 77 new PDOT centres is under process as proposed by 9 State Governments viz. 1) Andhra Pradesh; 2) Tamil Nadu; 3) Uttar Pradesh; 4) Telangana; 5) Karnataka; 6) Haryana; 7) Rajasthan; 8) Punjab, and 9) Bihar. The details of the newly recommended centres by the State Governments are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of State Government	Places where opening of new PDOT Centres recommended by the State Governments
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam, Chittoor
2.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari, Coimbatore, Karur, Trichy, Salem, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Vellore
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Bijnor, Deoria, Maharajganj, Kushinagar
4.	Telangana	Jagitial, Rajanna Sircilla, Kama Reddy, Nirmal, Adilabad
5.	Karnataka	Hubbali-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru (Mangalore), Belagavi (Belgaum)
6.	Haryana	Palwal, Karnal, Yamuna Nagar, Kaithal, Ambala, Hisar, Mahendragarh
7.	Rajasthan	Udaipur, Churu, Jhunjhunu
8.	Punjab	Amritsar, Barnala, Bathinda, Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Pathankot, Patiala, Rupnagar, SBS Nagar, Sangrur, Mohali, Tarn Taran
9	Bihar	Siwan, Gopalganj, Madhubani, West Champaran, Rohtas, Munger, Buxar, Suppaul, Nalanda, Kishangang, Sitamarhi, Banka, Purnea, Katihar, Nawada, Motihari, Bhabhua, Begusarai, Bhagalpur

3.99 When asked about the target for online and offline PDOT training programmes for the current year and the number of persons likely to be covered for both the training, the Ministry has informed that it has identified the goal of imparting PDO training to 5 lakh emigrant workers going for overseas employment as one of its target in the five year perspective plan, to be achieved before 2024. In view of the volatile situation of COVID-19, no separate new target has been fixed for the current year.

3.100 On the latest position on developing country-specific and sector-specific PDOT programmes, the Ministry has stated that besides developing a Training of Trainers manual on migration to GCC countries, ICM has also developed a PDOT manual on Japan that captures relevant information for living and working in Japan for individuals desirous of going there under the Specified Skilled Workers scheme. Further, ICM has also been working on 7 country specific booklets for countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sudan, South Sudan and Thailand that are in final stage of development.

3.101 The Committee have also been informed during its Study visit that the total number of emigrants imparted PDOT training is 1,13,405 (upto April 2022). Out of this, 10,369 emigrants have been imparted online training and 1,03,036 have been imparted offline training. The majority of emigrants are going to Gulf countries.

3.102 When enquired about the number of country specific P-DOT manuals in the pipeline, the Ministry has stated that two country-specific manuals have been developed so far by ICM for 18 ECR countries and Japan respectively. Further, India Centre for Migration and International Labour Organization have also prepared a pre-departure handbook for Indians going to the European Union. ICM is also developing new country specific booklets for 6 GCC countries and 8 other countries- Lebanon, Libya, Indonesia, Sudan, South Sudan, Thailand, Jordan and Malaysia.

3.103 The Committee note that the Ministry is expanding its PDOT programme by opening more centres at major overseas migration hot spots in the country taking the total number of such centres from 31 to 100. The Committee further note that for new centres, the Ministry is planning to partner with industry bodies such as CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and Common Services Centre, e-Governance Service India limited of Ministry of Electronics and Information besides the NSDC. Keeping in view the fact that enhancing the soft skills of migrant workers is crucial for their employability and realisation of better returns for their skills/jobs, the Committee desire that the modalities for imparting PDOT

by industry bodies and Government agencies should be finalized at the earliest. The Committee also urge the Ministry to prepare a year and area-wise action plan to cover such parts of the country which are not covered under the programme so far, including the North-eastern region. Since collaboration with the State Governments is essential for the successful implementation of the programme, an effective mechanism for the same may also be evolved at the earliest.

(Recommendation No. 33)

3.104 The Committee note that online PDOT is helping the Ministry in providing training to more migrants even in remote areas and has drawn very positive response from participants, especially women participants. The Committee are happy that the Ministry intends to continue online PDO training post COVID and provide both online and in-person training options to prospective emigrants. The Committee are of the view that the number of prospective emigrants would increase with the opening up of international labour markets in the post COVID period and hence urge the Ministry to work out a target oriented annual action plan for imparting both offline and online PDO training and make provisions for adequate resources to meet the challenges.

(Recommendation No. 34)

3.105 The Committee note that India Centre for Migration has so far developed country-specific two PDOT manuals for 18 ECR countries and Japan respectively. Further, India Centre for Migration and International Labour Organisation have also prepared a pre-departure handbook for Indians going to the European Union. The Committee further note that ICM has also been working on 7 country-specific booklets for Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sudan, South Sudan and Thailand and these are in the final

stages of development. The Committee desire that the PDOT booklets should be finalized at the earliest so that prospective emigrants are made aware about safe and legal migration and are also acquainted with the rules and regulation of the destination countries.

(Recommendation No. 35)

F. Media Campaign

3.106 Overseas Indian Affairs (OIA) II Division runs media awareness campaign with the objective of creating wider awareness among the general public about the processes of legal migration, cautioning people against the illegal processes followed by fraudulent recruitment agencies and to provide information to emigrants/potential emigrants to ensure legal and safe migration.

3.107 The Ministry has carried out media awareness campaign on safe and legal migration by publicizing ads in Hindi and 6 regional languages i.e. Bangla, Malayalam, Punjabi, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu in newspapers through Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BoC) (formerly DAVP) for 12 weeks during the months of September, October, November and December 2021.

3.108 As per the recommendations of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and approval of competent authority in the Ministry, Impact Assessment Study has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC). Final Report has been submitted by IIMC.

3.109 Asked to state the findings of the Impact Assessment Study conducted by the IIMC regarding safe and legal migration, the Ministry has informed as under:

- Media consumption habits or media diet is unique in each State.
- Greater number of men have media access.
- Only 21.8% women respondents use mobile phone.
- Radio is used by a greater number of women (23.3%).
- Of the media, newspaper is least accessed or read by women with 11.6% respondents. Kerala is exception.
- There has been a significant difference between ECR and non-ECR category in terms of accessing media.
- Media access and use is also influenced by age.

- Overall finding from all the States reveal growing popularity of internet and mobile technology among the young age group.
- 98.1 access internet from their mobile phones for various purposes.
- TV is the third most popular medium with 72.9% viewers.
- 41.4% reads newspapers of which Telangana and Kerala have relatively more readers. A wide variation was observed among the States in terms of newspaper reading .
- Overall 3.5% respondents are found to be radio listeners.
- Cinema (54.8%) is one of the most effective modes of communication. Regional films are popular in all States.
- The percentage of respondents in the unexposed category is high in all the States as compared to the exposed category. No exposure is found in UP and Telangana.
- Exposed respondents are mostly concentrated in young age group as compared to the aged one.
- An analysis of campaign exposure between men and women shows higher percentage of exposed men, 76.1% as against 23.9 women.
- A strong relationship between education and exposure is also observed in the field. The higher the education is, the more is the exposure and vice versa.
- Exposure to the TV ad (69.4%) is more than the newspaper ad (35.8%).
- It is found that Rajasthan does not have any exposure to the print ad.
- Non-exposure to TV ad in UP can be associated with the lack of parity between preferred time to watch TV and time chosen for broadcasting. It is found that 60% respondents in UP prefer to watch TV in the morning, while the ad was run on TV in the evening.
- Assessment on recall of ad shows mixed responses from the exposed respondents.
- Opinions have been formed among the viewers on the content and presentation of the ad. 71.6% respondents suggested that the ads should be published more frequently to have a better impact. They also suggested that the actual beneficiaries of the MEA scheme can be figured in the TV so as to build up better credibility.
- Advertising is the most preferred choice of people in TV, newspaper and radio. A sizable number of people also suggested various applications such as SMS, social

media, YouTube as well campaigning. Gram sabha, panchayat and sarpanch are also mooted as suitable means of dissemination of information.

- Awareness of both POEs and RAs about the media campaign was moderate in terms of recall of campaign ads and messages. 50% of the POEs and 33.3% of the RAs were of the view that media campaign on safe migration is not sufficient in terms of curbing the unsafe practices in migration of unskilled workers for employment.

3.110 As regards the time by which the Ministry is likely to take a decision in this regard, the Committee have been informed that the report is under consideration of the Ministry.

3.111 The Ministry has further stated that for safe and legal migration, media clips in Hindi and regional languages of celebrities such as Sachin Tendulkar, Lakhwinder Wadali in Punjabi; Sudarshan Pattnaik, Padma Shree Awardee, Sand Artist in Odia; Nagarjuna Akkineni, prominent Film Star in Telugu, Rituparna Sengupta in Bangla and Raghvendra Rajkumar in Kannada, have been procured and are being used for disseminating information on safe and legal migration through various means.

3.112 The Division also shares the campaign with the State Governments for further outreach in districts.

3.113 The Committee note that based on a recommendation of theirs, the Ministry has got an Impact Assessment Study done by the IIMC regarding media awareness campaigns on safe and legal migration run by its OIA II Division. The IIMC has submitted its final report which is under consideration by the Ministry. Based on the findings of the Impact Assessment Study, the Committee feel that media campaigns of the Government are not having the desired impact in curbing unsafe practices in migration of unskilled workers. The Committee are of the view that vigorous campaigns is required to achieve the desired objectives and in this digital age, there is an urgent need to make use of social media platforms like SMS, YouTube etc. in addition to advertisements in the print and the electronic media. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to make increasing use of internet, mobile technology and social media platforms for greater awareness and outreach among prospective emigrants on safe and legal migration. A fresh strategy on media awareness campaigns may also be worked out based on the findings of the IIMC. The

Committee also recommend that the State Governments should be made to play a greater role in the dissemination of information on safe and legal migration at the grass-root level through Gram Sabha, Panchayat and Sarpanch.

(Recommendation No. 36)

G. Mobility Agreements

3.114 Migration and Mobility Partnerships are aimed at harnessing India's demographic dividend and fostering mobility for students, academics, business people and professionals. Two such Agreements have already been signed between India and France (2018) and UK (2021). Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower related issues are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) and Jordan. Further specific Manpower Cooperation Agreements have been negotiated with Denmark (2008), Japan (2021) and Portugal (2021).

3.115 When asked to state the impact of Migration and Mobility MoUs/Agreements on labour and management related issues and on migration and mobility of the migrant workers, the Ministry has informed that the MoUs on Migration and Mobility provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower-related issues with host countries. These MoUs and Agreements have the provision of implementation through Joint Working Groups/ Joint Commission Mechanism, comprising of representatives from both sides. All labour and manpower-related issues including welfare, labour contract between employers and employees as part of MoU, pre-departure/post-departure assistance and hassle free movement across international borders of Indian workers are discussed during these meetings.

3.116 During the course of evidence on 22 December 2021, the Secretary (CPV & OIA) elaborated on the role of Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements:

“Traditionally, as you know, almost nine million of our Indian NRIs, who are working overseas, are in the Gulf region. We used to have Labour and Manpower Agreements. We have now entered into what is now known as the next generation of LMAs, the Labour and Manpower Agreements. We have signed one recently with Kuwait for domestic workers. As I said, we have also been harmonizing the e-migrate platform with those of the Gulf countries, which will give us a much better platform and provide much greater security for our Indian migrant workers going overseas.

We have also realized that given the complexity and the dynamics of migration, we need to have something that looks more at mobility because many of these people want to go out for some time. They work there and then they come back home. After all, India is today one of the fastest growing economies in the world. So, the attraction of coming

back home is very, very high. So, taking advantage of that, we have been negotiating with a number of countries. We had something called the India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility. This was a pan-EU understanding in which we organize workshops. But the fallout of that was very positive because a number of countries in the European Union came to us and said that we would like to do Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement with you. We have concluded several MoUs. We have had understandings with France and Denmark in the past. UK which is, of course, today outside the European Union, and with Portugal.

We have also commenced negotiations with a number of countries along the Mediterranean Coast in Europe as well as in Eastern Europe. Mauritius is also very anxious to have a similar agreement with us. This shows a very high demand that countries across the world, particularly in the developed world, have for the Indian migrant workers and professionals. The MMPAs provide for both migrant workers and professionals, and in many cases, we also have a small carve out for students....

So, these MMPAs are, as we see, the new generation of Migration Mobility Partnership Agreements. We had signed on to the Global Compact for Migration as part of our partnership with the International Organisation for Migration, IOM and with the ILO. Many of those elements are now being brought into these new generation MMPAs”.

3.117 Responding to a query on the status of the MoUs/Agreements under process and the efforts being made for speedy finalization of the same, the Ministry has informed that the MoUs on Migration and Mobility are under process with Germany, Mauritius, Portugal, BNL (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg), Australia, Russian Federation etc. To expedite the MoUs towards conclusion, frequent rounds of negotiation including virtual discussions are held with partner countries in consultation with relevant MEA Divisions and other line Ministries. Ministry is actively following up with the countries concerned for early conclusion of MoUs/Agreements.

3.118 When enquired whether the number of people who migrate to countries with which India has signed manpower and mobility agreements has increased, the extent to which the number of grievances has decreased as a result of the said agreements and the manner in which the MoUs/Agreements on manpower and mobility signed have translated into better deals and more job opportunities for potential migrant workers, the Ministry has stated that Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower related issues are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) and Jordan. In addition, these MoUs and Agreements have the provision of implementation through Joint Working Groups, comprising of representatives from both sides who meet annually, alternately in both countries, and all prevailing labour and manpower related issues are discussed during these meetings. Issues of interest to the migrant workers including grievances are taken up during these JWG's.

3.119 Further, specific Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements were signed between India and Denmark on 2009 and Japan on Specified Skilled Worker in January 2021. A similar Labour Mobility Agreement has been concluded with Portugal. These agreements aim to provide safe

and legal migration opportunities to migrant workers in potential employment destinations all over the world.

3.120 The Committee note that Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower related issues are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries and Jordan. Specific Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements were signed between India and Denmark in 2009 and with Japan on Specified Skilled Worker in January 2021. A similar Labour Mobility Agreement has been concluded with Portugal. Further, MoUs on Migration and Mobility are under process with Germany, Mauritius, Portugal, BNL (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg), Australia, Russian Federation etc. India had also signed on to the Global Compact for Migration as part of our partnership with the International Organization for Migration and with the International Labour Organization. The Committee acknowledge that Migration and Mobility Agreements are aimed at providing safe and legal migration opportunities to Indian workers in potential employment destinations all over the world. However, the impact of such MoUs/Agreements and the manner in which they have translated into better deals and more job opportunities for potential migrant workers are not known. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should carry out an impact assessment of the existing Migration and Mobility Agreements and monitor the implementation aspect of such MoUs/Agreements and ensure that the issues of interest of the migrant workers including their grievances are actually addressed through the said MoUs/Agreements.

(Recommendation No. 37)

H. Simplification of Passport Services for Indians Citizens Residing Outside India – The Passport Seva Programme

3.121 The Passport Seva Programme (PSP) is an ambitious Mission Mode Programme of the Government of India and has emerged as one of the most successful programme delivering passport related services to the citizens in India and Indian diaspora living outside the country. The Ministry launched the PSP at High Commission of India in London on 24th October, 2018 followed by Indian Consulates in Birmingham and Edinburgh. Thereafter, roll out has been started at all Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

3.122 The PSP system has streamlined and expedited the passport services at Indian Missions/Posts abroad. It has also helped in process transformation with its better automation and user friendly interface/application for the office staff. It has further strengthened the data integrity, information security, 24X7 availability of the system and has facilitated in quick and informed decision making. The outsourced agencies offering front end passport related services have also been integrated with the PSP system.

3.123 The Indian diaspora living abroad has benefited by accessing a revamped & enhanced Passport Application Form, Uniform Processes, Standard Documentation Requirements, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for assistance, Quicker Redressal of their Grievances and citizen friendly Web Portal. The citizens can also track their Application status through the web portal and avail hassle free issuance of Passport services.

3.124 The requirement of Police Verification (PV) Process for applicants applying passport services at Indian Missions/Posts abroad has been simplified and integrated online with all Police Districts in India resulting in end-to-end receipt and submission of PV report digitally and in a paperless environment thereby expediting submission of PV report.

3.125 On being asked to state the number of Indian Missions/Posts abroad integrated with the Passport Seva programme (PSP) system so far, the efforts made to ensure expeditious integration of the remaining Missions/Posts abroad and the extent to which the PSP system has resulted in speedy delivery of services to the Indian diaspora, the Ministry has stated that as on 25th December 2021, a total of 176 Indian Missions/Posts have been integrated into Passport Seva Programme through Global Passport Seva Project (GPSP). Integration for the remaining 5 Indian Missions/Posts is in progress. These remaining Missions/Posts are (i) Chiangmai, Thailand (ii) Islamabad, Pakistan (iii) Pyongyang, DPR Korea (iv) Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan and (v) Kabul-Afghanistan.

3.126 The Ministry has further stated that GPSP has brought in a standard and uniform passport issuance process across the globe working under one centralized application and database. This has helped in bringing uniformity in terms of compliance, standardization, automation, data consistency and security. The GPSP system has resulted in faster decision making, centralised visibility and expedited police verification process, thereby expediting the passport issuance process. It has also ensured 24X7 availability of the passport issuance system for the Indian diaspora.

3.127 When enquired whether the Ministry/Indian Missions abroad have received any complaint regarding passport services from the Indian diaspora, the Ministry has informed that after the launch of GPSP system, no such grievances have been received in the Ministry. Rather, it has provided a platform for expedited redressal of grievances because of real time availability of the data points and standardized processes developed under GPSP system. The applicants can track their status of applications on a real time basis through the GPSP portal. The Indian diaspora can register their grievances, if any, through multiple channels such as GPSP portal, MADAD portal, CPGRAM and also through twitter which are monitored closely on a daily basis.

3.128 The Committee are pleased to note that after the launch of the Global Passport Seva Project, no complaint regarding passport services has been received from the Indian diaspora. The GPSP system has provided a platform for expedited redressal of grievances because of real time availability of the data and standardized processes developed under the system. The Committee further note that as on 25th December 2021, a total of 176 Indian Missions/Posts have been integrated into the Passport Seva Programme through the Global Passport Seva Project and integration of the remaining 5 Indian Missions/Posts viz, Chiangmai, Thailand; Islamabad, Pakistan; Pyongyang, DPR Korea; Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan and Kabul-Afghanistan is in progress. The Committee urge the Ministry to complete the integration of these Missions/Posts through the GPSP system within a specified timeframe so that the Indian diaspora community in the said countries can enjoy smooth, hassle free and expedited passport services.

(Recommendation No. 38)

IV ENGAGEMENTS WITH PIOs/OCIs

A. Know India Programme.

3.129 The Government of India initiated a flagship Scheme titled „Know India Programme“ (KIP) in 2004 with an objective to reconnect young persons of Indian origin with their motherland and to motivate and inspire them by the transformations taking place in contemporary India. The Scheme was revamped in 2016, the frequency of KIP has been

increased from 21 to 25 days and the age of participants was increased from 18-26 to 18-30 years. Moreover, States can now be made partners in this programme with increased duration of the State leg from 7 to 10 days. Since its inception, Ministry had, so far, conducted 59 editions of this programme, with the participation of a total number of 2061 diaspora youth.

3.130 When asked to state the number and details of Know India Programme organized during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the number of PIO youths who participated in the programme and the number of States made partners so far under the programme, the Ministry has informed that since inception, 59 editions of KIP have been held so far with the partnership of 22 States & Union Territories (*Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal*). A total of 2061 diaspora youth have participated in the KIP Programmes held so far. However, the Ministry could not host any KIP programme in 2020-21 and 2021-22 because of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

3.131 The Committee note that since inception of the Know India Programme (KIP) in 2004, 59 editions of KIP have been held with the partnership of 22 States and Union Territories and a total of 2061 diaspora youth participated in the KIPs. The Committee further note that the Ministry could not host any KIP edition in 2020-21 and 2021-22 because of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Keeping in view its objectives of reconnecting young persons of Indian origin with their motherland and motivating and inspiring them by the transformations taking place in contemporary India, the Committee urge the Ministry to conduct more editions of KIP in the current financial year, as the COVID-19 Pandemic situation has improved. States and Union Territories who have not partnered with the Government so far under KIP should be pursued to ensure their active participation under the Scheme.

(Recommendation No. 39)

B. Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana

3.132 Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY) was introduced in the financial year 2018-19 for providing the elder generation Persons of Indian Origin in the age group of 45-65 year an

opportunity to reconnect with their root. It is a 17 days programme and conducted with coordination of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC). The programme was introduced initially for those Persons of Indian Origin in Girmitiya countries (Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Reunion Island) who belong to lower income group and are unable to afford to visit India. Now, the programme is open for PIOs in the age group of 45-65 years across the globe. Four editions of this programme has been conducted so far successfully with the participation 160 PIOs. Two editions of PTDY are scheduled for the FY 2021-22 but have not been announced yet due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

3.133 The Committee note that the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY) is a fairly new scheme launched in the financial year 2018-19. Only four editions of this programme have been conducted so far with the participation of 160 PIOs. Two editions of PTDY are scheduled for 2021-22 but have not yet been announced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Committee desire that the Ministry should make efforts to conduct PTDY in the current year as the COVID-19 Pandemic situation in the country has improved. The Committee also urge the Ministry to popularize the Scheme amongst the elder generation of the diaspora community so that they can utilize the opportunity to reconnect with their roots.

(Recommendation No. 40)

C. Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children

3.134 The Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) was introduced in the Academic Year 2006-07 for the children of Persons of Indian Origin and those of Non-resident Indians to enable them to pursue Undergraduate courses in Indian Universities/Institutions and promote India as a centre of higher studies. Under SPDC Scheme, financial assistance of upto US\$ 4000 towards tuition fee, admission fee and post admission services is provided for Undergraduate courses in professional and non-professional courses (*except medical and related courses*). The Scheme was revamped in the Academic Year 2015-16 and it was extended to children of Indian workers, working in 17 ECR countries (*ECR countries are; Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen*). The Ministry offers 150 scholarship every year under the Scheme, out of which 50 are reserved for PIOs, 50 for NRIs and 50 for children of Indian workers in ECR countries. Out of the 50 slots which is reserved for

children of Indian workers in ECR countries, 1/3 slots (viz., 17) are reserved for children of Indian workers in ECR countries who are studying in India. If any of these seats are not filled up, they are to be made available to applicants from other categories under SPDC and vice-versa. The SPDC Scheme is applicable in selected 69 countries.

3.135 The basis of selection of students under SPDC are as follows:

- (i) The selection process is based on Merit-cum-Means basis, meaning, where two candidates secure equal Marks, preference will be given to the applicant/prospective student who comes from lower income family.
- (ii) SPDC is awarded to the following four categories:
 - (a) Children of PIOs/OCIs.
 - (b) Children of NRIs.
 - (c) Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries who studied outside India.
 - (d) Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries who studied in India.
- (iii) SPDC is open to applicants in the age group of 17 to 21 years.
- (iv) Children of PIO/OCI and NRI category must have done six years consecutive schooling from 07th to 12th grade from selected 69 countries. Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries who studied outside India must have done three years consecutive schooling from 10th to 12th grade. Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries, who are left behind in India, the candidate must have passed the Senior Secondary (10+2) or equivalent examination from a system of education recognized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- (v) An applicant/candidate who has passed the qualifying examination and has secured admission in an undergraduate course in a designated Institution in India [*Central Universities of India offering Under Graduate Courses; 'A' Grade Institutions accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and recognized by UGC; National Institutes of Technology (NITs); Schools of Planning and Architecture and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) through DASA Scheme*] and fulfill other eligibility criteria can apply for scholarship under SPDC.
- (vi) The candidate should not be the recipient of any other scholarship or financial assistance or any other assistance under any other Government of India or State Government Scheme.
- (vii) The total monthly income of the parent(s) of the candidate should not exceed an amount equivalent to USD 5000.

(viii) Children of Indians residing in Nepal will also be eligible for SPDC on fulfillment of following two criteria : (a) Both parents should be registered in the Mission/Post in Nepal for a minimum period of four years; and (b) The applicant has done at least four years schooling including two years of classes XI & XII in Nepal just prior to application.

3.136 The Ministry has provided the number of scholarships awarded annually and the number of students covered under the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children during the last five years, category-wise as under:

Batch wise – Category	Grand Total
2015-16	65
CIWG - Studied Outside India	25
NRI	24
PIO	16
2016-17	34
CIWG - Studied in India	1
CIWG - Studied Outside India	13
NRI	8
PIO	12
2017-18	86
CIWG - Studied in India	3
CIWG - Studied Outside India	45
NRI	32
PIO	6
2018-19	122
CIWG - Studied in India	7
CIWG - Studied Outside India	69
NRI	43
PIO	3
2019-20	150
CIWG - Studied in India	7
CIWG - Studied Outside India	80
NRI	61
PIO	2
Grand Total	457

3.137 Asked to state the reasons for awarding less number of scholarships in some years, the Ministry has stated that the SPDC Programme for the year 2020-21 could not be announced

because of COVID-19 Pandemic. SPDC Programme for the year 2021-22 is under process at an advanced stage as the applications were received late because of delayed academic sessions in 2021-22. There were less number of scholarships awarded in some earlier years as the applications received from eligible students were not many.

3.138 To a query regarding whether the Ministry has any plan to enhance the number of scholarships and coverage of students in the near future, the Ministry has informed that since inception, they have increased the number of countries where scholarships is offered. In case there will be demand from other countries, the Ministry would positively consider expanding the scheme to other countries.

3.139 The Committee note that the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children(SPDC) introduced in 2006-07 was revamped in the Academic Year 2015-16 extending it to children of Indian workers in 17 ECR countries. Out of the 150 scholarships offered every year, 50 are reserved for PIOs, 50 for NRIs and 50 for children of Indian workers in ECR countries. The Committee further note that except for the year 2019-20, the number of slots have not been filled up totally. Moreover, the number of seats utilized for children of Indian workers who studied in India has been very low. The Committee regret to note that the progress under this important Scheme has been slow from the start and the applications received from eligible students were not many. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to popularize the scheme through wide publicity with the active participation of the State Governments and other stakeholders so that children of Indian workers who may not have the resources to continue higher studies, may get the opportunity to do so.

(Recommendation No. 41)

3.140 The Committee also note that the SPDC Programme for the year 2020-21 could not be announced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic while the Programme for the year 2021-22 is under process. The Committee urge the Ministry to finalize the SPDC

programme for 2021-22 and 2022-23 without delay so that the needy students belonging to the diaspora community are not deprived of the benefits of the Scheme.

(Recommendation No. 42)

D. Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora

3.141 Under the Scheme of Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD), OIA-II Division provides grants to Indian Missions/Posts abroad to support their initiatives aimed at strengthening ties with the overseas Indian community; to preserve, maintain and showcase their Indian heritage and culture. The Scheme aims to nourish and strengthen the cultural bonds between India and its diaspora. The projected outcome of the scheme is to reinforce the cultural identity of the persons of Indian origin. Grants are also provided to think-tanks and organizations in India which organize events pertaining to the overseas Indian community. The Scheme for PCTD started in 2005. However, the Ministry has started a concerted effort to encourage Indian Missions/Posts to organize activities under this Scheme. An amount of Rs. 5.45 crore has been utilized since 2016-17 under PCTD.

3.142 Sanctions for an amount of Rs. 1,92,55,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Two Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Only) have been issued to 69 Missions/Posts so far in the financial year 2021-22.

3.143 When enquired whether the Ministry is working with Diaspora Associations for promotion of cultural ties and whether such Associations exist in all the countries where Indian Missions are functioning, the Ministry has informed that Mission/Posts are working with Diaspora Associations to support their initiatives aimed at strengthening ties with the overseas Indian community under PCTD. As per the details made available by the Missions, there are about 479 Diaspora Associations working with the Missions as on date. However, there are countries where there are no Diaspora Association (s). In many countries, Missions/Posts work directly with diaspora.

3.144 The Committee note that under the Scheme of Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora started in 2005, the Ministry provides grants to Indian Missions/Posts abroad to support their initiatives aimed at strengthening ties with the Overseas Indian Community and also in preserving, maintaining and showcasing Indian heritage and culture. Grants are also provided to think-tanks and organizations in India which organize events pertaining to the overseas Indian community. The Committee further note that the Ministry has started a concerted effort to encourage our Missions/Posts to organize

activities under this Scheme and an amount of Rs. 5.45 crore has been utilized since 2016-17. However, the Committee are of the view that the number of programmes and activities organized under the Scheme so far are not adequate and the expenditure incurred since 2016-17 for the same is very meagre. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to pursue the Indian Missions/Posts abroad to conduct more programmes and activities aimed at promoting cultural ties with our diaspora and provide sufficient funding to think-tanks/organizations for the same. The Ministry may also assess the nature and types of programmes/activities that can be taken up to nourish and strengthen the cultural bonds between India and its diaspora.

(Recommendation No. 43)

3.145 The Committee note that there are about 479 Diaspora Associations working with Indian Missions to support their initiatives aimed at strengthening ties with the Overseas Indian Community under PCTD. The Committee further note that Diaspora Association(s) do not exist in some countries and Missions/Posts work directly with the diaspora in many countries. The Committee feel that only a strong and vibrant Diaspora Association can effectively coordinate and implement various programmes/activities for strengthening the cultural bonds between India and its diaspora. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Indian Missions/Posts abroad should encourage establishment/formation of Diaspora Associations in those countries where no such association exists. The Committee also urge the Ministry to facilitate deeper and broader engagements with the Diaspora Associations by all the Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

(Recommendation No. 44)

E. Overseas Citizenship of India Card Scheme

3.146 The Government of India launched the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card scheme in August 2005 for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). OCI card is a multi-entry life-long visa for visiting India for any purpose.

3.147 The erstwhile Persons of Indian Origin card scheme, launched in the year 1999 was merged with OCI scheme in 2015. The process of OCI card application submission has also been streamlined. In 2020, OCI card scheme has been extended upto 6th generation to Indian diaspora of St. Denis, Reunion Island. Earlier in 2017 and 2019, similar facilities were extended to Indian diaspora of Mauritius and Suriname respectively.

3.148 On being asked the reasons for frequent revision of the OCI Card scheme, the Ministry has stated that over the decades, a large number of Indian nationals have moved to foreign countries and acquired foreign citizenships. In order to engage and to connect diaspora to their roots, Government of India introduced Persons of Indian Origin card scheme in the year 1999.

3.149 In order to provide some additional benefits, the Government of India subsequently introduced Overseas Citizenship of India Cardholders Scheme in August 2005. Section 7A of The Citizenship Act, 1955 governs registration of eligible PIOs of certain category as an OCI cardholder and also conferment of certain rights admissible to OCI cardholders.

3.150 The Government of India, exercising relevant provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 has been revising OCI card scheme guidelines with an objective of streamlining OCI registration processes for ease of obtaining OCI registration cards. As a result, the documentary requirement in cases of re-issuance of OCI cards has been reduced. In 2015, it was decided to merge the erstwhile PIO Card Scheme with OCI card making all PIO cardholders deemed to be OCI card holder. Since then, the deadline for conversion of PIO card into OCI card and validity of handwritten PIO cards has been extended successively to facilitate unhindered entry of eligible foreign nationals holding PIO cards into India. Recently, the MHA *vide* OM No. 26011/Misc/71/2018-OCI dated 17 December, 2021 has extended the conversion deadline until 31 December, 2022. Likewise, OCI registration card scheme has been extended to upto 6th generations in respect of Indian diaspora in Mauritius, Suriname and St. Denis, Reunion Island in 2017, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

3.151 In September 2019, restrictional jurisdiction in submission of OCI registration application within USA has been removed. As a result, the Indian-origin US nationals can submit their OCI registration card application as per their convenience either at Indian Embassy in Washington or any other Consulate irrespective of his/her place of residence.

3.152 The Government of India in April 2021, further relaxed the OCI guidelines by dispensing with mandatory requirement of re-issuance of an OCI card each time a new passport

is issued to a foreigner upto 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age. Now, OCI cardholder is required to get the OCI card re-issued only once when a new passport is issued after completing 20 years of age. However, OCI cardholder is required to upload Online a copy of the new passport and a latest photo each time a new passport is issued upto 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age. Considering the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, timeline for re-issuance of OCI cards, where necessary, has also been temporarily extended until 31st December, 2022 *vide* OM No. 26011/Misc/181/2019-OCI dt. 29 December, 2021.

3.153 Efforts have also been made to ease the application process by making the OCI application process completely online which has helped the foreigners eligible for/registered as OCI cardholder to a great extent. For this reason, OCI cardholder registration has been increasing significantly during the last few years which is explained below:

Period	OCI cards issued	Average cards per annum
2005-2014	17,09,545	1,70,954
2015-2021 (till 29.12.2021)	23,39,104	3,35,157
Total	40,48,649	

3.154 When enquired regarding any complaint received in respect of this scheme and the remedial steps taken in this regard, the MEA has stated that the OCI policy falls under the purview of MHA while its implementation is done primarily through Indian Missions/Posts abroad. CPV Division, MEA coordinates between MHA and Missions/Posts abroad. The difficulties faced by applicants and feedback related to lack of clarity received from Missions/Posts are shared with MHA regularly for guidance and necessary correction in the policy matters. Such procedural difficulties, technical grievances etc. received from time to time have been looked into and resolved in the past.

3.155 As per the response received from Indian nationals abroad under the scheme, the Ministry has informed that the scheme is hugely popular amongst the Indian diaspora as it provides several benefits including life-long visa and parity with NRIs in various matters like in economic, financial and educational fields (barring a few restrictions like purchase of agricultural land or farm house or plantation property and requirement of obtaining a special permission or a Special Permit, as the case may be, from the competent authority to undertake research, missionary or Tabligh or Mountaineering or Journalistic activities; to undertake internship in any foreign Diplomatic Missions in India; to visit Protected or Restricted or Prohibited areas; exemption from registration with Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) for any length of stay in India; at par with NRI in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children; at par with resident Indian nationals in the matter of tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India; same entry fee as domestic Indian visitors to visit national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India; eligible for appointment as

teaching faculty in IITs, NITs, IIMs, IISERs, IISc, Central Universities and in the new AIIMs set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

3.156 The Committee note that the erstwhile PIO Card Scheme, launched in 1999 was merged with OCI Scheme in 2015. The process of submission of OCI card application has also been streamlined. In view of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the timeline for re-issuance of OCI cards has also been temporarily extended upto 31 December, 2022. The Committee further note that the registration of OCI cardholder has been increased significantly during the last few years and a total of 23,39,104 OCI cards have been issued from 2015 till 29 December 2021 bringing the average cards issued per annum to 3,35,157. However, keeping in view the fact that there are over 18 million PIOs spread across the globe, the Committee feel that the response under the Scheme has been slow and the number of OCI cards issued so far is inadequate. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to popularize the Scheme amongst the targeted group through wider dissemination of information through social media platforms also, in coordination with the State Governments and other stakeholders.

(Recommendation No. 45)

3.157 The Committee note that the OCI policy falls under the purview of MHA, while its implementation is done primarily through Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The Committee desire that the process of registration and issuance of OCI cards should be sped up and urge the Ministry to identify all the bottlenecks including lack of clarity in policy matters, procedural difficulties, technical grievances etc. and resolve the same through improved coordination with the MHA so that conversion of all PIO cards to OCI cards is completed by the deadline of 31st December 2022.

(Recommendation No. 46)

CHAPTER IV

WELFARE MEASURES FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

(i) Skill Development Initiatives for Migrant Workers

4.1 The Committee enquired about the manner in which the Ministry conceptualize „skills“ and the methodology for skills need analysis wherein they have been informed that as per the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), “Skills” can be defined as the ability to do something with expertise. The MSDE’s Skill India is an initiative which has been launched to empower the youth of the country with skill sets that make them more employable and more productive in their work environment. The MSDE is responsible for co-ordination of all skill development efforts across the country, removal of disconnect between the demand and supply of skilled manpower, building the vocational and technical training framework, skill up-gradation, building of new skills and innovative thinking not only for existing jobs but also jobs that are to be created.

4.2 When asked whether the Ministry has undertaken a study on international best practices on skill development and training of migrant workers in other countries and the findings of such a study, the Ministry has stated that as per the directions of Cabinet Secretary, a monitoring committee of Secretaries headed by Secretary (CPV&OIA) has been constituted to establish a coordinated institutional mechanism on availing employment opportunities abroad. The committee also includes Secretaries of MSDE, M/o Labour & Employment, D/o Education and D/o School Education. Under the mandate of this committee, the Ministry has been carrying out an assessment of employment opportunities abroad with the help of Indian Missions, India Centre for Migration, Industry bodies, State Governments etc. This endeavor is currently underway.

4.3 The Committee observed that though the skill ecosystem in India has been strengthened, a number of challenges continue to persist when it comes to both inter-State and international migration. When they desired to know the challenges faced along with the remedial measures taken to deal with it, the MEA has stated that while the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is the nodal Ministry governing skill development initiatives in India, the challenges in international migration are being identified by the Ministry of External Affairs. These challenges are mentioned as under:

- Skill matching in line with international standards - The skill sets imparted to the workers need to be in line with the growing demands of the international labour market.
- There is a limited focus on language skills and soft skills which are increasingly gaining prominence in new emerging destination countries. „Core employability skills“ should include not only technical skills but also critical soft skills.

- Lack of recognition of Prior Learning: Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) scheme can help access the existing migrant skills and knowledge through informal/formal learning.
- Challenge of ensuring equal working conditions for migrant workers in the destination countries.
- Creating brand visibility of Indian workers as law abiding hard working individuals
- Need for reliable data regarding skilled workers.

Against these challenges, certain remedial measures are suggested:

- MSDE in collaboration with NSDC may develop course curriculum in line with the demand of the international market.
- Loans should be made available for language training and incorporating a foreign language in the school curriculum.
- State Governments have an important role to play in dissemination of opportunities and also regarding the availability of training courses in line with requirements of destination countries.
- Talent acquired by returnee migrant in the destination countries should be tapped and they should be given a top up training and posted to another country. There should also be recognition of prior learning acquired by them.
- Information maintained regarding trainees can be a useful source of data regarding the number of skilled manpower.

4.4 On being asked to state whether the Ministry has any role in skill training of potential migrant workers and if so, the mechanism followed for coordination with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, MEA has informed that it is coordinating with MSDE and NSDC to develop skill training of potential migrants in collaboration with State Governments. MEA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on July 2, 2016 with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for implementation of the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

4.5 PKVY, a joint collaborative partnership between MEA and MSDE, aims at enhancing the skills set of potential emigrant workers in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate their overseas employment. The scheme comprises of two components. The first one is technical top-up training, involving recognition of prior learning, assessment and certification, to be provided by MSDE, through the National Skill Development Corporation

(NSDC). The second one is a one day training programme on soft skills, called Pre-Departure Orientation and Training (PDOT), to be imparted by MEA in collaboration with NSDC, State Governments and other partners. MSDE conducted training for the first batch on pilot basis by involving India International Skill Centres (IISCs) in 2018 and on the basis of this experience MSDE is developing a new model on private public partnership basis. Separately, MEA launched one day PDOT in 2018 under which 104, 000 migrant workers have been trained so far.

4.6 During evidence on the subject on 29 June 2021, the Secretary (CPV & OIA) elaborated on the priority attached to improving the skills of the migrant workers:

“We realise that skill is a very important factor in this particular ability of any individual migrant to move up the value chain to realise better return for himself or herself and therefore provide more returns back to the family and to the nation at the end of the day. Many countries called this smart mobility and that is what we are also getting into. So, the next gen agreements that we are negotiating with the developed countries in particular, which apart from the mobility aspect of the highly professional people and their social security arrangements as well also has elements which are essentially for low skilled people. So, with these countries we are also looking at possibilities of construction workers, agricultural labours, of day-care services that can be provided by Indians who are skilled specifically in that particular area. The agreement that we have had particularly with the Japanese, I think, is a trend-setter in this particular area because it defines 14 sectors across industries and services in which Indians are now welcome. I think, once these Indians go there, they will carry with them the reputation that Indian workers have always carried, including the Gulf for being the best emigrant and the best worker. So, actually the Gulf has a premium for the Indians. So, we think, we are moving ahead”.

4.7 With respect to skill training of potential migrant workers, the Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship during the course of evidence on 29 June, 2021 submitted:

“Under the PDOT scheme NSDC is running 14 centres - apart from other centres run by the MEA through the States and other organisations – and has trained around 91,000 candidates so far. It is a one-day training and the feedback which we got was a mixed one. In some cases, people wanted a longer training and said that five-days training should be there. There were some cases, who were in abroad, came back and were trained again. Generally, on an average people were happy with the kind of training which was given, especially for the first-timers. First-timers have a fear of going abroad. Middle-class and upper-class people have fear and this kind of familiarity has helped them.

Regarding training people to take skills abroad, an experiment was done through India International Skill Centres. Based on the experiments, we had developed a new model which is a Public-Private Partnership model under which through an RFB mode, network partners were selected. About 95 network partners joined us in developing these centres

where they give vocational training and necessary language training and they also deliver PDOT programme for sending persons abroad. There are 524 centres in the country. Most of the migration hotspots are covered by this India International Skill Centre. They send around 40,000 people every year”.

4.8 The Secretary, MSDE also highlighted the efforts made for standardization of skilling curriculum across the country during the course of evidence on 29 June, 2021:

“...what we have done is that we have tried to standardize the skilling curriculum across the country through our national skills regulator, that is, National Council for Vocational Education and Training, which became operational last year. We have tried to benchmark our qualifications with the international qualifications in different countries and we have tried to have some agreements also with these countries. With UAE, we have been able to benchmark 15 of the qualifications with 13 of ours that these job roles qualifications are equivalent to those job roles which are available in UAE. The UAE has also even agreed that people who are qualified in this, through a common exam, will be given facilitations like visa rebates and other things. But the only problem is that not many candidates have come out of this. Only around 133 candidates were taken through a pilot programme, of which 63 candidates have been selected by UAE. After that, because of COVID and other issues and also due to fall in demand, I think, suddenly there was a slowdown in the people going to Middle East.

Similarly, for Saudi Arabia, we have a benchmarking of five job roles. For UK, we have a benchmarking of 82 job roles. But what we have found is that we cannot have a one size fits all kind of scenarios. Each country is different. So, we have to prepare a country-wise policy because migration issues, visa requirements, and skill requirements are different. Therefore, we are in an extensive talk with the regulators and industries of those countries. We are taking help of the recruitment agencies here and embassies there and we are in the process of preparing country-wise policy for each country. So, what do we have to do? What kind of agreements we need to have? The MEA is on-board on that. We have been successful in two-three agreements. In Japan, earlier, we had this Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) in which we used to send interns for three to five years for training in Japan and they were supposed to then come back and use the industrial practices here which they had learnt in Japan.

Taking a step further, the MEA has signed an agreement with Japan on the specified skilled workers in which we have been permitted to send skilled workers from India in 14 sectors. All such things like the modalities of doing that, identifying the vacancies, identifying the organisations who will do the skill testing on behalf of the Japanese companies, and language training, etc., are getting worked out. We are trying to sign similar kinds of agreements with other countries so that we can have a distinct plan for sending skilled workers but the basic principle is that the quality of our domestic skilling should improve only then we will be in a position to send people abroad. A lot of steps have been taken to improve the quality of the domestic skilling, both in the long-term system, that is, done through ITI and the short-term system which is done through the PMKVYs. We are trying to improve that. This is a summary of what we are trying to do for sending our skilled migrants abroad”.

4.9 Regarding placement of migrant workers who completed the training programmes, the Secretary submitted:

“...in our training programmes itself, there is a component which is linked to placement. Earlier it was 20 per cent, now 30 per cent of the payment goes to the training partner only if he/she is able to place that person and show him to be placed for a period of time. It is not that he/she places him and gets the money and goes away. That is there. But still placement is not satisfactory. It is only 55 per cent under PMKVY and 70 per cent under the ITI. What MSDE does is that those who are not placed, there is a system to make them available to national level organisations that are there. Last year, what we have done is that we have launched a ASSEM portal which is a directory of all certified skilled personnel in the country, short-term skill, long-term skill, apprentices. Now, we are happy to say that within, not even one year has passed, almost where we have a directory of 1.3 crore people where by the click of a mouse you can locate a skilled person.... Around 12 lakh jobs have been offered on that portal so far....Regarding the 160 hours PDOT training, as I said earlier, we converted that into a PPP mode in the India International Skill Centre where training takes place anywhere between 15 days to three months depending upon the job role. So, there are 95 training partners and 524 centres and they are able to send about 40,000 people abroad for jobs. That is the position”.

4.10 The Committee also observed that the MEA is also looking at skill training centres for Indian migrants in some destination countries like Japan and UAE for imparting skills as per local requirements. The Ministry has informed that there is another programme entitled “Technical Intern Training Programme” (TITP) run by MSDE, under which selected candidates are trained in India by the Sending Organizations (SOs) before they undergo three to five years of On Job Training, after which they are required to return to India and utilize the skills acquired by them in Japan. As per MSDE, 220 interns have been placed in Japan and they are pursuing their training in Japan in diverse industry sectors including Manufacturing, Healthcare, Construction, Textile, Agriculture and Food Manufacturing.

4.11 The Committee further observed that under the PKVY there was an aim of setting up IISCs to provide skill training and certification on international standards and 14 centres were empanelled as IISCs and enquired whether those centres have been started. The MEA has informed that as per inputs provided by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) of MSDE, 14 IISCs were recognized in the pilot phase and international training and certifications were conducted for approximately 600 candidates which was covered under PMKVY and PKVY. The pilot project was successfully completed in 2018. As of date, 100 organizations are part of the network operating through 557 IISCs across more than 300 trades. The top 5 sectors (based on the number of training centres) are Construction, Electronics, Retail, Tourism and Hospitality and Healthcare. The IISCs are spread across 261 districts of the country, while covering 68% of top 50 migrating districts.

4.12 When asked to furnish the details of skill training centres for migrant workers set up in various countries so far, the number of such workers benefitted thereunder and the extent to

which such training centres have helped in improving the skills of the migrant workers, the Ministry has informed that the first Upskilling & Training Center in the UAE was inaugurated by Hon'ble MoS Shri V. Muraleedharan during his visit in January 2021 in Dubai. The courses in this upskilling session included basic Arabic & English language and Computer/IT skills. Such upskilling sessions have also been organised in Sharjah and Ajman. Till date about 350 Indian workers have participated in such upskilling programmes.

4.13 Regarding whether the Government is taking adequate steps to tap the potential of migrant workforce to make significant contributions to India's economic development by investing their hard-earned savings in the country, as well as monetizing human and social capital acquired abroad, such as new skills and competencies, the Ministry has stated that migrant workers are very important for the growth and development of Indian economy not only through remittances but also passing on technical knowhow acquired at destination countries. During the first wave of the Pandemic, MEA in association with MSDE and Ministry of Civil Aviation collaborated to create a database of returnee migrant workers who have tremendous potential. Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support (SWADES) initiative was a result of this collaboration that sought to tap the skills already acquired by Indian workers and post them to another destination countries.

4.14 Additionally, MEA is engaging with State Governments and private industry bodies to explore this talent pool of our workers and to deliberate on strategies to take this initiative forward. A Committee is set up to create a framework to facilitate Indian Workforce to avail employment opportunities abroad.

4.15 It has been stated during the course of evidence on 29 June 2021 that new migration corridors are emerging in Japan, Korea, Taiwan towards East Asia, in countries of Europe and in other places because of various reasons and accelerated by COVID. These are for both workers as well as highly skilled professionals.

4.16 When asked about the plans/initiatives proposed to be taken by the Ministry to meet the new challenges for skilling of potential migrant workers and to provide matching skills with destination countries in the post COVID era, the Committee have been informed that with regard to the emerging employment opportunities, negotiations have been initiated with host countries to initiate text based negotiations to facilitate. In this context Migration Mobility Partnership Agreement/ MOUs were signed with France (2018) and UK (2021). A limited version of these arrangements tailored to the preferences of the host countries has been signed with Japan (2021) and Portugal (2021). The negotiations are underway with various countries including Australia, Belgium–Netherlands-Luxembourg (BNL) countries, Italy, Germany, Malaysia etc.

4.17 After approval from the Cabinet on the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on "Specified Skilled Worker" (SSW), the agreement was signed on 18 January, 2021.

Following that, two rounds of the Joint Working Group meetings on both sides were held virtually. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has nominated the National Skill Development Corporation as the nodal agency for implementation of SSW programme. Industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry (ASSOCHAM) have been encouraged to promote imparting training to meet the skill requirements for the skill tests. Multiple private sector institutions have also initiated dedicated SSW module based training and placement capsules for candidates interested in the employment opportunities under SSW in Japan.

4.18 A Japan specific Pre-Departure Orientation Training manual has been designed in consultation with industry bodies for training candidates on aspects such as language, work culture, behavioral traits etc. A training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for trainers at PDOT centers from various National and State level institutions including some private institutes from all across India was conducted on 07 October 2021.

4.19 Cognizant of new opportunities emerging in new markets of East and South East Asia, ICM has done a labour market assessment study on the same. The labour market study looks at emerging sectors in countries like Japan, Korea etc. and identifies the opportunities for Indian workers therein. Further, to spread information about new opportunities in emerging labour markets, a high level delegation led by Secretary (CPV&OIA) visited four States – Assam, West Bengal, Telangana and Tamil Nadu in the month of October and December 2021 respectively to spread awareness about opportunities for potential migrant workers.

4.20 The Committee further enquired about the latest position on SWADES including the details regarding data received on SWADES so far and the status of integration of the said data into the Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal of MSDE. The MEA has informed that Government of India launched the Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support initiative for citizens returning under the Vande Bharat Mission at the beginning of the Pandemic. SWADES is a joint initiative of the Ministry of skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs which aims to create a database of returning citizens based on their skill sets and experience.

4.21 As on 28th February 2022, more than 33,957 candidates have registered SWADES skill Card.

4.22 All the stakeholders have been given access to the SWADES candidate database with uploading of details on the ASEEM portal for employer connect under different sectors. An initial stage assessment shows that job connects has been established with 7,495 candidates by employers registered on the ASEEM portal which is a continuous process of interaction between employers and candidates.

4.23 The Committee note that a monitoring committee of Secretaries headed by Secretary (CPV&OIA) has been constituted to establish a coordinated institutional mechanism on availing employment opportunities abroad. The committee also includes Secretaries of MSDE, M/o Labour & Employment, M/o Education and D/o School Education. Under the mandate of this committee, the Ministry has been carrying out an assessment of employment opportunities abroad with the help of Indian Missions, India Centre for Migration, Industry bodies, State Governments etc. and this endeavour is currently underway. The Committee desire that assessment of employment opportunities abroad should be completed at the earliest and an institutional mechanism to facilitate employment of Indian workers abroad should be established without delay. This assumes greater significance and urgency in view of the easing of COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, increased vaccination and opening up of labour markets in the Gulf and other countries.

(Recommendation No. 47)

4.24 The Committee note that MEA is coordinating with MSDE and NSDC to develop skill training of potential migrants in collaboration with the State Governments. Under the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the MEA and MSDE are jointly collaborating as partners to enhance the skills set of potential emigrant workers in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate overseas employment. MSDE conducted training for the first batch of 600 candidates on pilot basis in 2018. But the Committee did not find any significant progress in development of new model on Private Public Partnership. The Committee, therefore, desire that MEA and MSDE should work together in a time bound manner in overcoming the challenges in respect of international migration by redefining the 'core employability skills' to include critical soft skills besides technical skills,

developing skilling curriculum in line with the demand of the international labour market, dissemination of labour related opportunities abroad and availability of training courses through the State Governments etc. The Committee also feel that adequate steps have not been taken so far to tap the skills and competencies acquired by Indian workers abroad and urge the Ministry to work out a strategy in collaboration with other stakeholders so that skills and technical knowhow acquired at destination countries by the migrant workers are tapped and passed on.. The Ministry has also stated that the IISCs are spread across 261 districts of the country, while covering 68% of the top 50 migrating districts. The Committee desire that each potential migrant worker should be given the opportunity to receive skill training and recommend for setting up of IISCs in all the remaining migrating districts of the country in the shortest possible time.

(Recommendation No. 48)

4.25 The Committee are pleased to note that the first Upskilling & Training Centre in the UAE has been set up in January 2021 in Dubai for improving the skills of the migrant workers. Such upskilling sessions have also been organized in Sharjah and Ajman and about 350 Indian workers have participated in such programmes. Keeping in view the huge number of migrant workers in the Gulf countries, the Committee desire that adequate number of such training centres should be set up in all Gulf Cooperation Countries where sizeable number of low skilled and semi-skilled Indian migrants are working. Efforts may also be made to increase the level of participation of the said workers in the upskilling programmes to ensure favourable condition of employment and better returns and the MEA through its Missions/ Posts should actively facilitate the same.

(Recommendation No. 49)

4.26 The Committee note that the international labour market is now demand driven as compared to the earlier supply driven system. With the emergence of new labour markets in East and South East Asia including Japan, Korea, Taiwan etc. and in countries of Europe, skilling of potential migrant workers and to provide matching skills with the destination countries is a new challenge, especially in the post COVID era. The need of the hour is to improve the quality of our domestic skilling and standardize curriculum across the country so that migrant workers can go abroad and secure employment with better wages. The Committee, therefore, urge the MEA to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in this regard and make all out efforts to facilitate migrant workers to go abroad with the requisite skill sets and competencies in line with the demand of international labour markets and the destination countries.

(Recommendation No. 50)

4.27 The Committee note that an agreement on a Memorandum of Cooperation on Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) was signed with Japan on 18 January, 2021. The Committee welcome this step as it would facilitate skilled Indian workers to find employment in select sectors and job roles with favorable condition of employment. The Committee further urge the MEA to actively facilitate signing of such agreements with other countries across various sectors for low skilled, semi-skilled, skilled workers and professionals so that these people can go abroad for a stable, secure and better future.

(Recommendation No. 51)

4.28 The Committee note that the India Centre for Migration has done a labour market assessment study at emerging sectors in countries like Japan, Korea etc. and has identified

the opportunities for Indian workers therein. The Committee are of the view that the endeavor of the Government should be to grasp the opportunities and recommend wider dissemination about the new opportunities in emerging labour markets to potential migrant workers across the country with the active participation of all concerned Ministries/Departments and the State Governments.

(Recommendation No. 52)

4.29 The Committee note that SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support), a joint initiative of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of External Affairs has been launched for citizens returning under the Vande Bharat Mission at the beginning of the Pandemic with the aim of creating a database of returning citizens based on their skill sets and experience. More than 33,957 candidates have registered SWADES Skill Card as on 28th February 2022. The Committee further note that all the stakeholders have been given access to the SWADES candidate database with uploading of details on the ASEEM (Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping) portal for Employer connect under different sectors and as per an initial stage assessment, job connects have been established with 7,495 candidates by employers registered on the ASEEM portal. The Committee appreciate this initiative and urge the Ministry to generate more awareness about SWADES amongst the migrant workers and improve the registration, in coordination with the Ministries of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Civil Aviation. Efforts may also be made to improve job connects between Employer and Employee and registration of Employers on the ASEEM portal so as to facilitate continuous interaction between employers and candidates.

(Recommendation No. 53)

(ii) Welfare of Returnee Migrant Workers

4.30 On being asked whether the Ministry has an authentic data regarding the number of migrant workers who returned to India in the wake of the COVID -19 Pandemic, the Ministry has stated that while the overall data regarding return of workers during the COVID is not available, about eight lakh twenty five thousand workers returned from all over the world through the flights arranged by the GOI under Vande Bharat Mission. The top countries from where these workers returned as well as the top 20 States which received these workers are as under:

Top 20 Countries from where Migrant workers returned			Top 20 States which received Migrant workers		
S. No.	Country	No. of Workers	S. No.	State Name	No. of Workers
1.	UAE	330058	1.	Kerala	236636
2.	Saudi Arabia	137900	2.	Uttar Pradesh	122757
3.	Kuwait	97802	3.	Tamil Nadu	116835
4.	Oman	72259	4.	Bihar	44345
5.	Qatar	51190	5.	Punjab	34271
6.	Singapore	33595	6.	Andhra Pradesh	32945
7.	Bahrain	27453	7.	West Bengal	31202
8.	Italy	8036	8.	Rajasthan	30131
9.	Iraq	6673	9.	Telangana	29147
10.	Maldives	5202	10.	Delhi	26045
11.	Nigeria	4690	11.	Maharashtra	24675
12.	Germany	4333	12.	Gujarat	19751
13.	USA	3597	13.	Karnataka	19289
14.	United Kingdom	3270	14.	Assam	10926
15.	Sri Lanka	2789	15.	Odisha	8683
16.	Bangladesh	2680	16.	Jharkhand	5246
17.	Japan	2156	17.	Uttarakhand	4881
18.	Canada	1851	18.	Jammu and Kashmir	4301
19.	Indonesia	1733	19.	Haryana	4161
20.	France	1577	20.	Goa	2872

4.31 Focusing on the rehabilitation of the Gulf returnees as there is a huge population of them as a working class, the Committee enquired during the course of evidence whether there is any proposal for their rehabilitation, apart from an insurance scheme and some welfare activities which are very negligible and emphasize the need to formulate a comprehensive scheme for rehabilitation of Gulf returnees in particular and also other workers in coordination with other Ministries. The MEA has responded that repatriation of workers stranded in the Gulf was an important issue for the Ministry. The Vande Bharat Mission was launched in this effort. Government launched the Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support (SWADES) initiative which was a skill mapping exercise of the Indian returnees under the Vande Bharat Mission to help them get jobs. As soon as conditions improved, Ministry negotiated with Gulf countries to start air bubble flights for the return of workers to their jobs. All Gulf countries have re-opened their doors to Indian workers and the momentum of workers going to the Gulf and other countries has picked speed.

4.32 The Committee also enquired about the number of migrant workers covered under the schemes/programmes of the Government and whether the Government has any information regarding the number of such workers yet to be covered under its schemes/programmes. The Ministry has informed that as on 28th February 2022, 1,12,212 migrants workers were imparted PDOT training and 68,00,686 migrant workers have taken PBBY policy, so far.

4.33 On being asked about the number of migrant workers who have returned to the Gulf and other countries during the last two years and the current year, the steps taken by the Government to facilitate their return and employment abroad, the Ministry has informed that 2,26,818 Emigration Clearances were granted in the last two years, for Gulf Countries.

4.34 During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Indian Missions and Posts were engaged in facilitating the return of Indian workers stranded abroad under the Vande Bharat Mission. With the development of COVID-19 related health protocols and vaccination, GOI's focus shifted to pressing for return of workers and families to Gulf countries on an expeditious basis. To that end, all Gulf nations were pressed to establish air bubbles and ease visa, travel and health restrictions. All countries in the Gulf responded favorably to these efforts by the Government as a result of which, there has been a steady flow of returnees back to the Gulf countries. Under the air bubbles, lakhs of people including workers have travelled back to Gulf countries during the Pandemic.

4.35 Issues related to welfare of Indian workers during the COVID Pandemic and measures to ensure their return were also taken up by the Government with its Gulf counterparts at the highest levels. Since March 2020, Prime Minister has had telephonic conversations with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi (March, May 2020 & January and September 2021), King of Saudi Arabia (twice in September 2020) and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia (March 2020 & March 2021), Amir of Qatar (March, May, December 2020 & April 2021), Sultan of Oman (April 2020 &

February 2021), King of Bahrain (April 2020) and Crown Prince/ Prime Minister of Bahrain (February 2022) and Emir of Kuwait (April 2020). The Prime Minister also held a virtual Summit with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi on February 18, 2022.

4.36 The External Affairs Minister visited UAE (November 2020 & April, November, December 2021), Qatar (December 2020 & June, August 2021 and February 2022 on transit), Bahrain (November 2020) and Kuwait (June 2021). He spoke to Foreign Ministers of UAE (April, June, August 2020 & January, April 2021 and January 2022), Saudi Arabia (April, June, September 2020 & January, February, May, November 2021), Qatar (April, December 2020, May 2021 and January 2022), Oman (April, August, September, December 2020 & September 2021), Bahrain (April 2020 and May 2021) and Kuwait (April 2020 & March, April, May 2021 and January 2022). The EAM also met his counterparts from Gulf countries on sidelines of other meetings such as Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia on sideline of G-20 meeting in Italy in June 2021 and Foreign Ministers of Kuwait and Oman in Tehran in August 2021.

4.37 India also hosted visits of Foreign Ministers of UAE (February 2021), Saudi Arabia (September 2021), Bahrain (April 2021) and Kuwait (March 2021) as well as Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council (November 2021).

4.38 Minister of State (VM) similarly paid visits to Gulf nations UAE (January and October 2021), Oman (December 2020) and Bahrain (August-September 2021). MOS (VM) also held a virtual meeting with Indian community organisations and leaders in October 2021.

4.39 The Government convened a regional (Gulf) Heads of Missions of India meetings on the subject of welfare of Indian workers during the COVID Pandemic and measures to ensure their return *inter alia* physically in Kuwait in June 2021 and virtually in July 2021. The Government also launched in January 2021 a program to upskill Indian blue collar workers in UAE to enhance their employability and wages.

4.40 Indian Missions/Posts are continuing to pursue with the Governments in the Gulf countries the return of Indian workers, the realization of payments due to them, new recruitment in the light of economic recovery, and other welfare measures as appropriate. The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement signed by the two countries on February 18, 2022 should also result in greater employment opportunities for Indian workers and professionals in UAE.

4.41 The Committee note that the Ministry does not possess the overall data of migrant workers who returned to India in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, the Committee have been apprised that about eight lakh twenty five thousand workers have

returned from all over the world through the flights arranged under the Vande Bharat Mission. The Committee further note that with the development of COVID-19 related health protocols and vaccination, the Government has made efforts for the return of workers and their families to Gulf countries and 2,26,818 emigration clearances were granted in the last two years. The Committee view the welfare of Indian workers and the issue of their employment/livelihood seriously and urge the Ministry to make all out efforts to ensure the expeditious return of the remaining workers to their destination countries by vigorously pursuing the matter with the respective countries at the Highest level. The MEA may also facilitate new recruitment for such workers and the Indian Missions/Posts may take up the issue of realization of payments due to them on priority.

(Recommendation No. 54)

4.42 The Committee observe that though the Ministry is implementing various programmes and schemes for the welfare of the Indian diaspora, no specific scheme exists for the rehabilitation of the workers who lost their jobs including the huge population of Gulf returnees, in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Committee are aware that many workers have gone back to their employment abroad with the easing of the COVID-19 Pandemic situation and the re-opening of doors to Indian workers by the Gulf countries. The Committee, however, feel that a rehabilitation scheme to ensure livelihood security for those workers who lost their jobs/could not return/prefer to stay back in the country, is still needed. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a comprehensive rehabilitation scheme may be worked out in coordination with other Ministries/Departments concerned as well as the State Governments for those workers who lost their jobs due to pandemics or other disasters to secure means of livelihood for them and their families, at the earliest. The

Committee urge the Ministry to initiate consultations with all the stakeholders in this regard without delay.

(Recommendation No. 55)

**NEW DELHI;
01 August, 2022**

10 Sravana, 1944 (Saka)

**P.P. CHAUDHARY,
Chairperson,
Committee on External Affairs**

Annexure-I

Compilation of Indian Diaspora data of NRIs/PIOs/OCIs and Students as on 31.12.2021					
	Name of Missions/Posts	No. of PIOs/OCIs	No. of NRIs	No. of students	Total Indian Diaspora
1	CGI, Herat, AFG01	0	0	0	0
2	EoI, Ouagadougou, BFA01	0	0	0	0
3	HCI, Yaounde, CMR01	0	674		674
4	EoI, Djibouti, DJI01	6	618	0	624
5	EoI, Conakry, GIN01	2			2
6	EoI, Malabo, GNQ01	0	110	0	110
7	EoI, Sao Tome, STP01	0	0	0	0
8	EoI, Lome, TGO01	4	629	0	633
9	CGI, Jalalabad, AFG02	0	0	0	0
10	EoI, Kabul, AFG03	0	0	0	0
11	EoI, Asmara , ERI01	0	198	0	198
12	CGI, Kandahar, AFG04	0	0	0	0
13	CGI, Mazar-e-Sharif, AFG05	0	0	0	0
14	EoI, Luanda, AGO01	58	3775	0	3833
16	UAE				3300000
17	EoI, Buenos Aires, ARG01	2230	1570	0	3800
18	EoI, Yerevan, ARM01	33	1628	8015	9676
19	HCI, Canberra, AUS01	44341	17105	13735	75181
20	CGI, Melbourne, AUS02	139185	265000	45750	310750

21	CGI, Perth, AUS03	52983	16919	6733	76635
22	CGI, Sydney, AUS04	84871	84293	33791	202955
23	EoI, Vienna, AUT01	18000	13000	350	31350
24	EoI, Baku, AZE01	65	708	119	892
25	EoI, Brussels, BEL01	11009	16645	766	28420
26	AHCI, Chittagong, BGD01		400	650	1050
27	HCI, Dhaka, BGD02	0	5056	7000	12056
28	AHCI, Rajshahi, BGD03	0	193	1173	1366
29	AHCI, Khulna, BGD04	0	0	210	210
30	EoI, Sofia, BGR01	0	0	0	162
31	AHCI, Sylhet, BGD05	0	0	275	275
32	EoI, Bahrain , BHR01	0	0	0	276634
33	EoI, Minsk, BLR01	114	171	793	1078
34	EoI, Brasilia, BRA01	184	858	4	1046
35	CGI, Sao Paulo, BRA02				0
36	HCI, Brunei Darussalam, BRN01	0	7500	38	7538
37	CGI, Phuentsholing, BTN01	0	0	0	0
38	EoI, Thimphu, BTN02	0	40000	2	40002
39	HCI, Gaborone, BWA01	1000	4000	200	5200
40	HCI, Ottawa, CAN01	0	0	183310	183310
41	CGI, Toronto, CAN02	217183	633720	0	850903
42	CGI, Vancouver, CAN03	608199	817030	0	1425229
43	EoI, Berne, CHE01	7000	14735	1701	23436
44	CGI, Geneva, CHE02	406	16500	2279	19185

45	EoI, Santiago, CHL01	2100	1400	2	3502
46	EoI, Beijing, CHN01	222	1000	100	1322
47	CGI, Guangzhou, CHN02	384	2000	3636	6020
48	CGI, Hong Kong, CHN03	10222	40000	815	51037
49	CGI, Shanghai, CHN04	761	2262	2700	5723
50	EoI, Abidjan, CIV01	55	3000	0	3055
51	EoI, Kinshasa, COG01	60	1777	0	1837
52	EoI, Brazzaville, COG02	0	800	0	800
53	EoI, Bogota, COL01	410	864	0	1274
54	EoI, Havana, CUB01	13	700	1	714
55	HCI, Nicosia, CYP01	312	5191	1961	7464
56	EoI, Prague, CZE01	359	5115	1500	6974
57	EoI, Berlin, DEU01	6914	131095	28905	166914
58	CGI, Frankfurt, DEU02	15536	0	0	15536
59	CGI, Hamburg, DEU03	0	0	0	0
60	CGI, Munich, DEU04	16066	54775	3000	73841
61	EoI, Copenhagen, DNK01	2755	13368	413	16536
62	EoI, Algiers, DZA01	9	3800	0	3809
63	EoI, Cairo, EGY01	384	3300	400	4084
64	EoI, Madrid, ESP01	11916	39506	1383	52805
65	EoI, Addis Ababa, ETH01	110	7000	0	7110
66	EoI, Helsinki, FIN01	3156	7237	519	10912
67	HCI, Suva, FJI01	1367	1141	0	2508
68	EoI, Paris, FRA01	57382	19000	10000	86382
69	CGI, St. Denis- Reunion Island, FRA02	3364	105	3	3472

70	UK	0	0	0	1777000
73	HCI, Accra, GHA01	3000	7000	0	10000
74	EoI, Athens, GRC01	1380	15000	48	16428
75	EoI, Guatemala City, GTM01	58	125	0	183
76	HCI, Georgetown, GUY01	899	125	498	1522
77	EoI, Zagreb, HRV01	32	2358	25	2415
78	EoI, Budapest, HUN01	137	4300	932	5369
79	CGI, Bali, IDN01	275	200	0	475
80	EoI, Jakarta, IDN02	4013	11831	1	15845
81	CGI, Medan, IDN03	130	610	1	741
82	EoI, Dublin, IRL01	27900	18500	5000	51400
83	CoI, Bandar Abbas, IRN01	1	0	0	1
84	EoI, Tehran, IRN02	354	4000	1850	6204
85	CoI, Zahidan, IRN03	0	0	200	200
86	EoI, Baghdad, IRQ01	1	6457	0	6458
87	EoI, Reykjavik, ISL01	242	181	16	439
88	EoI, Tel Aviv, ISR01	86718	14148	1218	102084
89	CGI, Milan, ITA01	36003	91940	1147	129090
90	EoI, Rome, ITA02	8661	160000	4750	173411
91	HCI, Kingston, JAM01	0	0	0	80000
92	EoI, Amman, JOR01	141	13080	0	13221
93	CGI, Osaka-Kobe, JPN01	305	0	0	305
94	EoI, Tokyo, JPN02	0	35475	1302	36777
95	EoI, Astana, KAZ01	4855	1000	3855	9710
96	RoI, Almaty, KAZ02	4855	1000	3855	9710
97	AHCI, Mombasa, KEN01	0	0	0	0
98	HCI, Nairobi, KEN02	35957	7603	0	43560

99	EoI, Bishkek, KGZ01	38	200	14500	14738
100	EoI, Phnom Penh, KHM01	69	1750	0	1819
101	EoI, Seoul, KOR01	449	9968	1364	11781
102	EoI, Kuwait, KWT01	1215	1029861	0	1031076
103	EoI, Vientiane, LAO01	0	0	0	400
104	EoI, Beirut, LBN01	54	51	2	107
105	EoI, Tripoli, LBY01	0	0	0	1502
106	Sri Lanka	0	0	0	767617
110	EoI, Rabat, MAR01	0	0	0	50
111	EoI, Antananarivo, MDG01	1691	315	0	2006
112	HCI, Male, MDV01	218	27065	0	27283
113	EoI, Mexico City, MEX01	1331	5602	108	7041
114	EoI, Bamako, MLI01	9	400	0	409
115	CGI, Mandalay, MMR01	249	212	0	461
116	EoI, Yangon, MMR02	1227	2126	0	3353
117	EoI, Ulaanbaatar, MNG01	11	150	0	161
118	HCI, Maputo, MOZ01	3421	2906	0	6327
119	HCI, Port Louis, MUS01	9225	12304	147	21676
120	HCI, Lilongwe, MWI01	8500	2452	0	10952
121	HCI, Kuala Lumpur, MYS01	27770800	185119	3331	27959250
122	HCI, Windhoek, NAM01	50	400	0	450
123	EoI, Niamey, NER01	0	250	0	250
124	HCI, Abuja, NGA01	36	50000	0	50036
125	O/HCI, Lagos, NGA02	321	0	0	321

126	EoI, The Hague, NLD01	22233	40000	3200	65433
127	EoI, Oslo, NOR01	0	0	0	26900
128	CGI, Birganj, NPL01	0	0	2300	2300
129	CO, Biratnagar, NPL02	0	0	0	0
130	EoI, Kathmandu, NPL03	102	0	0	102
131	HCI, Wellington, NZL01	160000	77300	2664	239964
132	EoI, Muscat, OMN01	1606	544631	40000	586237
133	HCI, Islamabad, PAK01	0	0	0	0
134	EoI, Panama, PAN01	0	0	0	16128
135	EoI, Lima, PER01	128	386	0	514
136	Philippines - 130000, FSM - 35, Palau - 27	1920	130062	15000	146982
137	HCI, Port Moresby, PNG01	70	4500	0	4570
138	EoI, Warsaw, POL01	1133	11000	4000	16133
139	EoI, Pyongyang, PRK01	0	0	0	15
140	EoI, Lisbon, PRT01	9545	24550	19	34114
141	RoI, Ramallah, PSE01	3	17	0	20
142	EoI, Doha, QAT01	0	0	0	0
143	EoI, Bucharest, ROU01	297	9600	805	10702
144	EoI, Moscow, RUS01	1791	7000	16872	25663
145	CGI, St. Petersburg, RUS02	369	129	487	985
146	CGI, Vladivostok, RUS03	30	0	680	710
147	EoI, Riyadh, SAU01	2010	2599804	65800	2667614
148	CGI, Jeddah, SAU02	3096	0	0	3096
149	EoI, Belgrade,	35	775	5	815

	SCG01				
150	EoI, Khartoum, SDN01	1270	2400	3	3673
151	EoI, Juba, SDN02	0	800	0	800
152	EoI, Dakar, SEN01	60	3740	0	3800
153	HCI, Kigali, RWA01	64	2940	0	3004
154	HCI, Singapore, SGP01	97387	350000	10000	457387
155	HCI, Freetown, SLE01	50	3000	0	3050
156	EoI, Paramaribo, SUR01	1744	1270	310	3324
157	EoI, Bratislava, SVK01	98	412	202	712
158	EoI, Ljubljana, SVN01	57	313	36	406
159	EoI, Stockholm, SWE01	17744	44290	250	62284
160	HCI, Victoria (Mahe), SYC01	5000	10250	0	15250
161	EoI, Damascus, SYR01	0	80	0	80
162	EoI, Bangkok, THA01	0	0	0	195140
164	EoI, Dushanbe, TJK01	0	250	1250	1500
165	EoI, Ashgabat, TKM01	8	100	0	108
166	HCI, Port of Spain, TTO01	555000	1800	0	556800
167	EoI, Tunis, TUN01	0	0	0	90
168	EoI, Ankara, TUR01	60	488	148	696
169	CGI, Istanbul, TUR02	105	1210	45	1360
170	India-Taipei Association, Taipei, TWN01	142	2187	2239	4568
171	HCI, Dar-es-Salaam, TZA01	0	0	0	15000
172	CGI, Zanzibar, TZA02	6243	200	0	6443
173	HCI, Kampala,	6500	23500	0	30000

	UGA01				
174	EoI, Kyiv, UKR01	589	1000	16500	18089
175	CGI, Atlanta, USA01	350000	88000	12608	450608
176	CGI, Chicago, USA02	194643	168368	33428	396439
178	CGI, New York, USA04	449667	1220000	62905	1732572
179	CGI, San Francisco, USA05	9162	196	167582	176940
180	EoI, Washington, USA06	4200000	0	189268	4389268
181	EoI, Tashkent, UZB01	52	1200	250	1502
182	EoI, Caracas, VEN01	4242	3574	93	7909
183	EoI, Hanoi, VNM01	75	2000	2	2077
184	CGI, Ho Chi Minh City, VNM02	467	5000	2	5469
185	EoI, Sanaa, YEM01	0	0	0	0
186	CGI, Cape Town, ZAF01	248	1500	50	1798
187	CGI, Durban, ZAF02	7539	7000	35	14574
188	CGI, Johannesburg, ZAF03	8647	0	200	8847
189	HCI, Pretoria, ZAF04	1000837	55000	50	1055887
190	HCI, Lusaka, ZMB01	24000	6000	0	30000
191	EoI, Harare, ZWE01	5000	500	0	5500
196	CGI, Sittwe, MMR03	0	8	0	8
197	HCI, Valletta, MLT01	150	10000	450	10600
198	HCI, Mbabane, SWZ01	262	0	0	262
199	CGI, Erbil, IRQ02	2	8000	0	8002
	Total	36347858	9509865	1056120	53370481

Annexure -II

Amount collected under ICWF during 2019-2021				
Name of the Missions/Posts	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
CGI, Herat, AFG01	₹ 103,562.24	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 103,562.24
EoI, Ouagadougou, BFA01	₹ 0.00	₹ 20,796.61	₹ 9,427.00	₹ 30,223.61
HCI, Yaounde, CMR01	₹ 0.00	₹ 5,166.44	₹ 139,689.95	₹ 144,856.39
EoI, Djibouti, DJI01	₹ 11,873.00	₹ 71,752.00	₹ 79,633.63	₹ 163,258.63
EoI, Conakry, GIN01	₹ 0.00	₹ 20,765.00	₹ 82,134.00	₹ 102,899.00
EoI, Malabo, GNQ01	₹ 0.00	₹ 740.00	₹ 8,530.00	₹ 9,270.00
EoI, Sao Tome, STP01	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 89.00	₹ 89.00
EoI, Lome, TGO01	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 159,223.34	₹ 159,223.34
CGI, Jalalabad, AFG02	₹ 7,274.87	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 7,274.87
EoI, Kabul, AFG03	₹ 575,635.00	₹ 621,208.00	₹ 500,580.00	₹ 1,697,423.00
EoI, Asmara , ERI01		₹ 14,774.00	₹ 9,824.00	₹ 24,598.00
CGI, Kandahar, AFG04	₹ 56,165.00	₹ 37,517.67	₹ 6,750.23	₹ 100,432.90
CGI, Mazar-e-Sharif, AFG05	₹ 167,056.62	₹ 147,681.99	₹ 141,833.60	₹ 456,572.21
EoI, Luanda, AGO01	₹ 378,509.00	₹ 107,990.00	₹ 97,623.00	₹ 584,122.00
EoI, Abu Dhabi, ARE01	₹ 15,562,767.00	₹ 14,222,158.00	₹ 13,345,025.00	₹ 43,129,950.00
CGI, Dubai, ARE02	₹ 56,751,485.00	₹ 71,630,831.00	₹ 63,056,815.00	₹ 191,439,131.00
EoI, Buenos Aires, ARG01	₹ 118,149.31	₹ 621,937.21	₹ 95,042.00	₹ 835,128.52
EoI, Yerevan, ARM01	₹ 158,095.14	₹ 1,678,594.06	₹ 261,672.05	₹ 2,098,361.25
HCI, Canberra, AUS01	₹ 3,045,629.00	₹ 2,309,644.00	₹ 3,174,673.00	₹ 8,529,946.00
CGI, Melbourne, AUS02	₹ 10,683,353.00	₹ 6,862,103.00	₹ 14,596,926.00	₹ 32,142,382.00
CGI, Perth, AUS03	₹ 3,509,529.00	₹ 2,320,676.19	₹ 2,576,680.00	₹ 8,406,885.19
CGI, Sydney, AUS04	₹ 440,263,509.58	₹ 7,901,923.00	₹ 10,446,185.00	₹ 458,611,617.58
EoI, Vienna, AUT01	₹ 3,303,386.00	₹ 752,633.00	₹ 649,614.00	₹ 4,705,633.00
EoI, Baku, AZE01	₹ 127,705.70	₹ 56,684.00	₹ 595,880.50	₹ 780,270.20
EoI, Brussels, BEL01	₹ 2,813,353.22	₹ 1,206,082.45	₹ 1,408,578.35	₹ 5,428,014.02
AHCI, Chittagong, BGD01	₹ 111,555.88	₹ 53,718.24	₹ 60,773.47	₹ 226,047.59
HCI, Dhaka, BGD02	₹ 485,646.64	₹ 180,853.00	₹ 312,401.00	₹ 978,900.64
AHCI, Rajshahi, BGD03	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
AHCI, Khulna, BGD04	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
EoI, Sofia, BGR01	₹ 208,731.86	₹ 98,105.00	₹ 91,871.00	₹ 398,707.86
AHCI, Sylhet, BGD05	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
EoI, Bahrain , BHR01	₹ 11,164,902.27	₹ 8,081,249.65	₹ 10,488,428.77	₹ 29,734,580.69
EoI, Minsk, BLR01	₹ 930,881.00	₹ 309,040.32	₹ 650,636.48	₹ 1,890,557.80

EoI, Brasilia, BRA01	₹ 118,085.62	₹ 42,279.93	₹ 53,983.30	₹ 214,348.85
CGI, Sao Paulo, BRA02	₹ 461,843.00	₹ 130,870.00	₹ 279,835.00	₹ 872,548.00
HCI, Brunei Darussalam, BRN01	₹ 701,166.00	₹ 706,250.00	₹ 1,897,597.00	₹ 3,305,013.00
CGI, Phuentsholing, BTN01	₹ 83,675.00	₹ 104,226.00	₹ 87,848.00	₹ 275,749.00
EoI, Thimphu, BTN02	₹ 67,995.00	₹ 29,910.00	₹ 40,720.00	₹ 138,625.00
HCI, Gaborone, BWA01	₹ 922,506.00	₹ 870,843.00	₹ 1,018,078.00	₹ 2,811,427.00
HCI, Ottawa, CAN01	₹ 2,312,952.00	₹ 1,852,293.00	₹ 3,641,145.00	₹ 7,806,390.00
CGI, Toronto, CAN02	₹ 21,301,985.00	₹ 16,065,473.00	₹ 34,940,483.00	₹ 72,307,941.00
CGI, Vancouver, CAN03	₹ 12,841,316.00	₹ 3,269,668.00	₹ 20,224,359.00	₹ 36,335,343.00
EoI, Berne, CHE01	₹ 2,579,453.00	₹ 755,818.00	₹ 1,059,556.00	₹ 4,394,827.00
CGI, Geneva, CHE02	₹ 780,844.82	₹ 25,124,039.12	₹ 8,734,890.59	₹ 34,639,774.53
EoI, Santiago, CHL01	₹ 220,990.00	₹ 198,021.00	₹ 93,786.28	₹ 512,797.28
EoI, Beijing, CHN01	₹ 4,490,370.36	₹ 41,704,715.12	₹ 1,275,169.52	₹ 47,470,255.00
CGI, Guangzhou, CHN02	₹ 4,369,498.98	₹ 909,976.89	₹ 1,171,271.05	₹ 6,450,746.92
CGI, Hong Kong, CHN03	₹ 2,914,058.42	₹ 1,665,587.99	₹ 1,711,923.31	₹ 6,291,569.72
CGI, Shanghai, CHN04	₹ 3,652,123.00	₹ 1,436,568.16	₹ 1,127,408.56	₹ 6,216,099.72
EoI, Abidjan, CIV01	₹ 794,502.32	₹ 251,545.67	₹ 398,921.09	₹ 1,444,969.08
EoI, Kinshasa, COG01	₹ 334,122.73	₹ 427,366.35	₹ 629,267.35	₹ 1,390,756.43
EoI, Brazzaville, COG02		₹ 3,965.00	₹ 15,679.00	₹ 19,644.00
EoI, Bogota, COL01	₹ 3,447,423.00	₹ 20,312.00	₹ 72,684.00	₹ 3,540,419.00
EoI, Havana, CUB01	₹ 51,554.11	₹ 13,986.91	₹ 19,683.57	₹ 85,224.59
HCI, Nicosia, CYP01	₹ 164,508.00	₹ 251,015.00	₹ 239,820.00	₹ 655,343.00
EoI, Prague, CZE01	₹ 448,220.01	₹ 174,274.41	₹ 298,141.84	₹ 920,636.26
EoI, Berlin, DEU01	₹ 2,365,047.32	₹ 854,141.50	₹ 1,122,616.19	₹ 4,341,805.01
CGI, Frankfurt, DEU02	₹ 8,701,594.00	₹ 2,406,661.00	₹ 2,949,027.00	₹ 14,057,282.00
CGI, Hamburg, DEU03	₹ 2,722,381.00	₹ 943,766.00	₹ 1,010,216.00	₹ 4,676,363.00
CGI, Munich, DEU04	₹ 5,390,894.00	₹ 2,473,776.00	₹ 2,083,424.00	₹ 9,948,094.00
EoI, Copenhagen, DNK01	₹ 1,629,964.00	₹ 681,886.00	₹ 648,112.00	₹ 2,959,962.00
EoI, Algiers, DZA01	₹ 594,239.00	₹ 162,869.00	₹ 97,910.00	₹ 855,018.00
EoI, Cairo, EGY01	₹ 1,903,655.00	₹ 581,876.52	₹ 3,466,084.55	₹ 5,951,616.07
EoI, Madrid, ESP01	₹ 5,699,478.32	₹ 3,499,822.00	₹ 4,969,149.06	₹ 14,168,449.38
EoI, Addis Ababa, ETH01	₹ 2,431,524.00	₹ 676,277.00	₹ 1,292,386.00	₹ 4,400,187.00
EoI, Helsinki, FIN01	₹ 1,449,535.12	₹ 488,316.00	₹ 499,564.02	₹ 2,437,415.14
HCI, Suva, FJI01	₹ 292,037.37	₹ 101,440.04	₹ 104,153.00	₹ 497,630.41
EoI, Paris, FRA01	₹ 9,635,413.00	₹ 3,585,159.25	₹ 4,379,163.40	₹ 17,599,735.65
CGI, St. Denis-Reunion Island, FRA02	₹ 677,466.00	₹ 110,189.23	₹ 55,499.59	₹ 843,154.82

CGI, Birmingham, GBR01	₹ 5,316,684.00	₹ 14,811,563.58	₹ 12,297,641.35	₹ 32,425,888.93
CGI, Edinburgh, GBR02	₹ 1,675,435.00	₹ 521,977.36	₹ 1,096,121.90	₹ 3,293,534.26
HCI, London, GBR03	₹ 34,092,342.70	₹ 12,796,146.00	₹ 22,509,267.00	₹ 69,397,755.70
HCI, Accra, GHA01	₹ 883,829.00	₹ 3,239,593.64	₹ 1,933,728.00	₹ 6,057,150.64
EoI, Athens, GRC01	₹ 1,108,778.00	₹ 986,652.00	₹ 244,331.00	₹ 2,339,761.00
EoI, Guatemala City, GTM01	₹ 86,910.16	₹ 39,955.04	₹ 38,097.00	₹ 164,962.20
HCI, Georgetown, GUY01	₹ 89,935.00	₹ 46,256.00	₹ 78,505.00	₹ 214,696.00
EoI, Zagreb, HRV01	₹ 128,474.00	₹ 58,628.00	₹ 41,387.00	₹ 228,489.00
EoI, Budapest, HUN01	₹ 247,755.62	₹ 100,669.47	₹ 154,465.55	₹ 502,890.64
CGI, Bali, IDN01	₹ 130,632.00	₹ 29,894.00	₹ 33,597.00	₹ 194,123.00
EoI, Jakarta, IDN02	₹ 2,005,068.00	₹ 1,428,467.00	₹ 1,276,438.00	₹ 4,709,973.00
CGI, Medan, IDN03	₹ 75,704.63	₹ 41,068.20	₹ 45,668.70	₹ 162,441.53
EoI, Dublin, IRL01	₹ 1,560,183.00	₹ 1,360,646.00	₹ 1,618,000.00	₹ 4,538,829.00
CoI, Bandar Abbas, IRN01	₹ 48,425.00	₹ 1,323,409.00	₹ 10,337.00	₹ 1,382,171.00
EoI, Tehran, IRN02	₹ 2,439,281.00	₹ 143,464.00	₹ 9,540,417.00	₹ 12,123,162.00
CoI, Zahidan, IRN03	₹ 30,592.00	₹ 10,980.00	₹ 21,779.93	₹ 63,351.93
EoI, Baghdad, IRQ01	₹ 10,933,281.25	₹ 4,220,328.00	₹ 5,245,031.00	₹ 20,398,640.25
EoI, Reykjavik, ISL01	₹ 34,292.00	₹ 17,096.00	₹ 14,936.00	₹ 66,324.00
EoI, Tel Aviv, ISR01	₹ 2,494,418.00	₹ 684,258.00	₹ 1,057,883.00	₹ 4,236,559.00
CGI, Milan, ITA01	₹ 6,029,420.92	₹ 3,340,328.00	₹ 5,911,897.00	₹ 15,281,645.92
EoI, Rome, ITA02	₹ 2,599,147.00	₹ 2,304,809.00	₹ 9,575,310.04	₹ 14,479,266.04
HCI, Kingston, JAM01	₹ 140,948.00	₹ 174,073.77	₹ 74,729.25	₹ 389,751.02
EoI, Amman, JOR01	₹ 1,086,704.00	₹ 441,699.00	₹ 606,635.00	₹ 2,135,038.00
CGI, Osaka-Kobe, JPN01	₹ 3,223,594.00	₹ 923,224.00	₹ 148,626.00	₹ 4,295,444.00
EoI, Tokyo, JPN02	₹ 16,501,043.00	₹ 479,514.00	₹ 2,552,198.00	₹ 19,532,755.00
EoI, Astana, KAZ01	₹ 407,804.00	₹ 194,315.00	₹ 284,440.00	₹ 886,559.00
ROI, Almaty, KAZ02	₹ 131,930.08	₹ 71,373.48	₹ 112,894.05	₹ 316,197.61
AHCI, Mombasa, KEN01	₹ 543,135.00	₹ 166,426.00	₹ 388,506.00	₹ 1,098,067.00
HCI, Nairobi, KEN02	₹ 5,632,759.15	₹ 21,694,992.81	₹ 4,374,696.30	₹ 31,702,448.26
EoI, Bishkek, KGZ01	₹ 472,150.00	₹ 157,763.00	₹ 165,404.11	₹ 795,317.11
EoI, Phnom Penh, KHM01	₹ 833,943.00	₹ 292,607.00	₹ 193,180.75	₹ 1,319,730.75
EoI, Seoul, KOR01	₹ 5,604,188.02	₹ 1,861,774.17	₹ 2,014,663.15	₹ 9,480,625.34
EoI, Kuwait, KWT01	₹ 42,162,741.00	₹ 24,363,750.34	₹ 29,365,659.17	₹ 95,892,150.51
EoI, Vientiane, LAO01	₹ 197,063.00	₹ 38,672.00	₹ 15,584.00	₹ 251,319.00
EoI, Beirut, LBN01	₹ 762,019.00	₹ 333,263.00	₹ 190,586.00	₹ 1,285,868.00
EoI, Tripoli, LBY01	₹ 66,937.50	₹ 1,435.89	₹ 0.00	₹ 68,373.39
HCI, Colombo, LKA01	₹ 28,911,899.00	₹ 10,855,503.00	₹ 3,208,647.00	₹ 42,976,049.00

CGI, Hambantota, LKA02	₹ 560,965.17	₹ 19,897.95	₹ 22,725.04	₹ 603,588.16
CGI, Jaffna, LKA03	₹ 4,593,552.48	₹ 1,262,177.02	₹ 326,240.04	₹ 6,181,969.54
AHCI, Kandy, LKA04	₹ 3,727,514.16	₹ 357,938.68	₹ 206,287.30	₹ 4,291,740.14
EoI, Rabat, MAR01	₹ 628,490.96	₹ 166,783.42	₹ 103,753.61	₹ 899,027.99
EoI, Antananarivo, MDG01	₹ 261,113.00	₹ 76,215.50	₹ 51,288.87	₹ 388,617.37
HCI, Male, MDV01	₹ 450,311.58	₹ 317,892.98	₹ 532,963.00	₹ 1,301,167.56
EoI, Mexico City, MEX01	₹ 354,738.82	₹ 158,285.72	₹ 276,608.40	₹ 789,632.94
EoI, Bamako, MLI01	₹ 90,629.00	₹ 85,976.28	₹ 143,117.00	₹ 319,722.28
CGI, Mandalay, MMR01	₹ 46,382.44	₹ 25,178.47	₹ 5,080.08	₹ 76,640.99
EoI, Yangon, MMR02	₹ 244,029.00	₹ 123,274.00	₹ 48,744.64	₹ 416,047.64
EoI, Ulaanbaatar, MNG01	₹ 57,653.00	₹ 31,215.00	₹ 11,412.00	₹ 100,280.00
HCI, Maputo, MOZ01	₹ 771,279.32	₹ 312,162.72	₹ 413,990.56	₹ 1,497,432.60
HCI, Port Louis, MUS01	₹ 695,463.05	₹ 436,052.54	₹ 411,466.68	₹ 1,542,982.27
HCI, Lilongwe, MWI01	₹ 655,344.05	₹ 347,956.34	₹ 342,477.59	₹ 1,345,777.98
HCI, Kuala Lumpur, MYS01	₹ 131,271,072.54	₹ 4,550,103.58	₹ 23,018,032.30	₹ 158,839,208.42
HCI, Windhoek, NAM01	₹ 72,389.00	₹ 40,284.00	₹ 37,265.00	₹ 149,938.00
EoI, Niamey, NER01	₹ 79,007.00	₹ 38,937.06	₹ 74,595.35	₹ 192,539.41
HCI, Abuja, NGA01	₹ 1,303,380.33	₹ 4,444,344.05	₹ 9,877,825.00	₹ 15,625,549.38
O/HCI, Lagos, NGA02	₹ 12,991,116.00	₹ 1,371,622.00	₹ 30,933,212.00	₹ 45,295,950.00
EoI, The Hague, NLD01	₹ 3,425,253.00	₹ 1,879,522.00	₹ 2,711,080.00	₹ 8,015,855.00
EoI, Oslo, NOR01	₹ 865,636.25	₹ 615,538.23	₹ 694,391.18	₹ 2,175,565.66
CGI, Birganj, NPL01	₹ 228,586.09	₹ 85,897.35	₹ 76,675.00	₹ 391,158.44
CO, Biratnagar, NPL02	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
EoI, Kathmandu, NPL03	₹ 6,159,009.48	₹ 3,215,660.95	₹ 3,500,922.15	₹ 12,875,592.58
HCI, Wellington, NZL01	₹ 6,765,881.00	₹ 4,618,291.00	₹ 9,876,103.00	₹ 21,260,275.00
EoI, Muscat, OMN01	₹ 20,607,830.17	₹ 19,784,072.00	₹ 16,358,606.00	₹ 56,750,508.17
HCI, Islamabad, PAK01	₹ 2,250,151.26	₹ 40,524.21	₹ 255,263.10	₹ 2,545,938.57
EoI, Panama, PAN01	₹ 317,758.40	₹ 178,365.13	₹ 242,210.41	₹ 738,333.94
EoI, Lima, PER01	₹ 70,100.35	₹ 102,408.64	₹ 47,460.61	₹ 219,969.60
EoI, Ma0a, PHL01	₹ 2,975,196.00	₹ 2,163,781.50	₹ 2,047,880.06	₹ 7,186,857.56
HCI, Port Moresby, PNG01	₹ 76,460.00	₹ 49,602.00	₹ 92,726.00	₹ 218,788.00
EoI, Warsaw, POL01	₹ 1,295,086.00	₹ 932,724.78	₹ 559,101.00	₹ 2,786,911.78
EoI, Pyongyang, PRK01	₹ 2,028.00	₹ 286.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 2,314.00
EoI, Lisbon, PRT01	₹ 2,020,780.00	₹ 1,626,155.00	₹ 2,222,446.00	₹ 5,869,381.00
RoI, Ramallah, PSE01	₹ 11,857.73	₹ 4,736.75	₹ 24,617.07	₹ 41,211.55
EoI, Doha, QAT01	₹ 21,576,032.00	₹ 15,646,365.00	₹ 19,197,359.18	₹ 56,419,756.18
EoI, Bucharest, ROU01	₹ 379,918.00	₹ 1,004,425.00	₹ 526,996.59	₹ 1,911,339.59
EoI, Moscow, RUS01	₹ 18,453,861.53	₹ 3,339,322.81	₹ 1,714,375.25	₹ 23,507,559.59

CGI, St. Petersburg, RUS02	₹ 2,906,890.35	₹ 579,300.54	₹ 172,153.23	₹ 3,658,344.12
CGI, Vladivostok, RUS03	₹ 106,956.00	₹ 60,928.68	₹ 795,045.33	₹ 962,930.01
EoI, Riyadh, SAU01	₹ 45,894,773.00	₹ 43,113,973.00	₹ 38,272,628.00	₹ 127,281,374.00
CGI, Jeddah, SAU02	₹ 16,601,343.47	₹ 10,217,759.00	₹ 10,327,049.00	₹ 37,146,151.47
EoI, Belgrade, SCG01	₹ 107,906.00	₹ 41,702.00	₹ 60,106.00	₹ 209,714.00
EoI, Khartoum, SDN01	₹ 4,845,605.00	₹ 1,487,009.12	₹ 7,250,102.00	₹ 13,582,716.12
EoI, Juba, SDN02	₹ 82,268.05	₹ 65,190.59	₹ 94,454.62	₹ 241,913.26
EoI, Dakar, SEN01	₹ 508,562.00	₹ 176,804.25	₹ 197,450.00	₹ 882,816.25
HCI, Kigali, RWA01		₹ 79,733.00	₹ 180,301.00	₹ 260,034.00
HCI, Singapore, SGP01	₹ 16,575,719.00	₹ 6,878,154.00	₹ 14,632,307.00	₹ 38,086,180.00
HCI, Freetown, SLE01		₹ 0.00	₹ 10,355.74	₹ 10,355.74
EoI, Paramaribo, SUR01	₹ 93,551.00	₹ 43,565.00	₹ 57,867.72	₹ 194,983.72
EoI, Bratislava, SVK01	₹ 239,102.00	₹ 76,782.00	₹ 86,852.00	₹ 402,736.00
EoI, Ljubljana, SVN01	₹ 101,600.00	₹ 41,321.00	₹ 50,637.43	₹ 193,558.43
EoI, Stockholm, SWE01	₹ 2,279,155.59	₹ 1,086,108.00	₹ 1,560,607.00	₹ 4,925,870.59
HCI, Victoria (Mahe), SYC01	₹ 260,401.01	₹ 163,567.39	₹ 307,961.48	₹ 731,929.88
EoI, Damascus, SYR01	₹ 281,865.00	₹ 197,216.00	₹ 248,455.00	₹ 727,536.00
EoI, Bangkok, THA01	₹ 5,980,995.00	₹ 2,846,067.00	₹ 2,001,497.00	₹ 10,828,559.00
CGI, Chiangmai, THA02	₹ 45,753.00	₹ 24,341.00	₹ 17,917.00	₹ 88,011.00
EoI, Dushanbe, TJK01	₹ 120,511.82	₹ 83,741.45	₹ 317,612.00	₹ 521,865.27
EoI, Ashgabat, TKM01	₹ 2,804,513.00	₹ 436,229.54	₹ 10,033.36	₹ 3,250,775.90
HCI, Port of Spain, TTO01	₹ 251,137.00	₹ 119,420.41	₹ 103,593.77	₹ 474,151.18
EoI, Tunis, TUN01	₹ 345,710.00	₹ 77,789.62	₹ 51,171.40	₹ 474,671.02
EoI, Ankara, TUR01	₹ 1,158,657.00	₹ 401,151.00	₹ 195,319.00	₹ 1,755,127.00
CGI, Istanbul, TUR02	₹ 2,163,067.92	₹ 704,835.94	₹ 352,425.00	₹ 3,220,328.86
India-Taipei Association, Taipei, TWN01	₹ 1,683,542.00	₹ 595,711.00	₹ 573,632.00	₹ 2,852,885.00
HCI, Dar-es-Salaam, TZA01	₹ 9,488,977.84	₹ 9,653,841.55	₹ 10,659,497.54	₹ 29,802,316.93
CGI, Zanzibar, TZA02	₹ 276,285.00	₹ 95,342.49	₹ 96,700.38	₹ 468,327.87
HCI, Kampala, UGA01	₹ 1,912,908.00	₹ 960,674.00	₹ 957,191.00	₹ 3,830,773.00
EoI, Kyiv, UKR01	₹ 484,383.00	₹ 525,835.00	₹ 695,499.64	₹ 1,705,717.64
CGI, Atlanta, USA01	₹ 8,269,980.20	₹ 5,314,653.62	₹ 10,973,052.59	₹ 24,557,686.41
CGI, Chicago, USA02	₹ 368,033,275.00	₹ 6,374,907.00	₹ 11,522,964.45	₹ 385,931,146.45
CGI, Houston, USA03	₹ 12,685,836.00	₹ 8,510,036.00	₹ 12,341,625.00	₹ 33,537,497.00
CGI, New York, USA04	₹ 25,319,873.00	₹ 13,365,278.00	₹ 28,670,247.00	₹ 67,355,398.00

CGI, San Francisco, USA05	₹ 21,158,865.00	₹ 15,697,438.02	₹ 29,115,557.00	₹ 65,971,860.02
EoI, Washington, USA06	₹ 6,708,972.00	₹ 5,055,907.61	₹ 11,171,346.33	₹ 22,936,225.94
EoI, Tashkent, UZB01	₹ 132,603.75	₹ 174,138.21	₹ 2,622,748.73	₹ 2,929,490.69
EoI, Caracas, VEN01	₹ 155,891.00	₹ 167,645.67	₹ 73,261.95	₹ 396,798.62
EoI, Hanoi, VNM01	₹ 451,003.35	₹ 115,119.28	₹ 95,344.44	₹ 661,467.07
CGI, Ho Chi Minh City, VNM02	₹ 1,853,377.00	₹ 929,254.62	₹ 871,936.00	₹ 3,654,567.62
EoI, Sanaa, YEM01	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 1,004,024.31	₹ 1,004,024.31
CGI, Cape Town, ZAF01	₹ 0.00	₹ 31,846.00	₹ 100,296.69	₹ 132,142.69
CGI, Durban, ZAF02	₹ 0.00	₹ 5,078,624.00	₹ 235,880.00	₹ 5,314,504.00
CGI, Johannesburg, ZAF03	₹ 0.00	₹ 317,088.00	₹ 632,031.32	₹ 949,119.32
HCI, Pretoria, ZAF04	₹ 2,455,546.00	₹ 908,049.00	₹ 258,762.00	₹ 3,622,357.00
HCI, Lusaka, ZMB01	₹ 1,372,553.00	₹ 206,688.00	₹ 1,315,043.00	₹ 2,894,284.00
EoI, Harare, ZWE01	₹ 124,919.00	₹ 65,903.00	₹ 259,167.00	₹ 449,989.00
PDI, UNESCO, Paris, FRA03	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
PMI, New York, USA07	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
PMI, Geneva, CHE03	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
Indian Mission to ASEAN, Jakarta, IDN04	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
CGI, Sittwe, MMR03	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00	₹ 0.00
HCI, Valletta, MLT01	₹ 3,594,804.00	₹ 314,163.40	₹ 296,814.38	₹ 4,205,781.78
HCI, Mbabane, SWZ01	₹ 0.00	₹ 15,000.00	₹ 28,991.72	₹ 43,991.72
CGI, Erbil, IRQ02	₹ 616,419.00	₹ 649,573.00	₹ 717,864.00	₹ 1,983,856.00
TOTAL				₹ 2,878,524,356.18

ICWF Utilization during 2019-2021		
Name of the Missions/posts	No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure in INR
CGI, Herat, AFG01	0	₹ 1,171.00
EoI, Ouagadougou, BFA01	0	₹ 0.00
HCI, Yaounde, CMR01	0	₹ 7,878.00
EoI, Djibouti, DJI01	1	₹ 8,856.00
EoI, Conakry, GIN01	0	₹ 0.00
EoI, Malabo, GNQ01	0	₹ 1,862.00
EoI, Sao Tome, STP01	0	₹ 1,198.00
EoI, Lome, TGO01	10	₹ 1,481,527.00
CGI, Jalalabad, AFG02	2	₹ 5,564.00
EoI, Kabul, AFG03	10	₹ 246,414.00

EoI, Asmara , ERI01	0	₹ 10,839.00
CGI, Kandahar, AFG04	0	₹ 3,836.00
CGI, Mazar-e-Sharif, AFG05	2120	₹ 13,281,206.00
EoI, Luanda, AGO01	2345	₹ 42,973,283.00
EoI, Abu Dhabi, ARE01	2623	₹ 27,831,083.61
CGI, Dubai, ARE02	3344	₹ 105,355,865.21
EoI, Buenos Aires, ARG01	2	₹ 551,779.80
EoI, Yerevan, ARM01	5	₹ 1,217,062.05
HCI, Canberra, AUS01	7	₹ 780,163.00
CGI, Melbourne, AUS02	5477	₹ 3,908,175.18
CGI, Perth, AUS03	11	₹ 10,586,837.00
CGI, Sydney, AUS04	1175	₹ 28,426,683.94
EoI, Vien0, AUT01	3	₹ 1,229,029.60
EoI, Baku, AZE01	35	₹ 926,411.30
EoI, Brussels, BEL01	43	₹ 627,671.00
AHCI, Chittagong, BGD01	2	₹ 33,297.00
HCI, Dhaka, BGD02	4	₹ 411,165.14
AHCI, Rajshahi, BGD03	32	₹ 76,431.00
AHCI, Khul0, BGD04	0	₹ 0.00
EoI, Sofia, BGR01	1634	₹ 4,712,060.95
AHCI, Sylhet, BGD05	0	₹ 0.00
EoI, Bahrain , BHR01	125	₹ 5,159,168.85
EoI, Minsk, BLR01	1500	₹ 241,532.00
EoI, Brasilia, BRA01	0	₹ 88,121.00
CGI, Sao Paulo, BRA02	1	₹ 70,425.00
HCI, Brunei Darussalam, BRN01	4	₹ 2,834,633.00
CGI, Phuentsholing, BTN01	4	₹ 239,200.00
EoI, Thimphu, BTN02	1	₹ 1,234,760.00
HCI, Gaborone, BWA01	14079	₹ 6,900,562.00
HCI, Ottawa, CAN01	0	₹ 544,853.00
CGI, Toronto, CAN02	67	₹ 48,800,588.00
CGI, Vancouver, CAN03	0	₹ 319,080.00
EoI, Berne, CHE01	2	₹ 1,817,007.00
CGI, Geneva, CHE02	728	₹ 61,598,441.89
EoI, Santiago, CHL01	44	₹ 1,570,276.31
EoI, Beijing, CHN01	30	₹ 1,129,095.30
CGI, Guangzhou, CHN02	31	₹ 2,668,720.62
CGI, Hong Kong, CHN03	32	₹ 666,776.32
CGI, Shanghai, CHN04	49	₹ 4,584,933.24
EoI, Abidjan, CIV01	24	₹ 1,303,729.76
EoI, Kinshasa, COG01	32	₹ 653,990.00

EoI, Brazzaville, COG02	8	₹ 838,955.48
EoI, Bogota, COL01	5	₹ 1,042,627.00
EoI, Hava0, CUB01	204	₹ 556,946.86
HCI, Nicosia, CYP01	114	₹ 460,931.37
EoI, Prague, CZE01	3	₹ 3,908,003.26
EoI, Berlin, DEU01	11	₹ 3,026,311.15
CGI, Frankfurt, DEU02	16	₹ 3,610,142.00
CGI, Hamburg, DEU03	10	₹ 2,171,401.00
CGI, Munich, DEU04	408	₹ 5,178,622.80
EoI, Copenhagen, DNK01	9	₹ 1,899,658.60
EoI, Algiers, DZA01	17	₹ 4,683,389.00
EoI, Cairo, EGY01	22	₹ 2,165,000.96
EoI, Madrid, ESP01	198	₹ 32,109,674.42
EoI, Addis Ababa, ETH01	3	₹ 240,261.69
EoI, Helsinki, FIN01	2519	₹ 3,312,091.67
HCI, Suva, FJI01	57	₹ 1,328,570.54
EoI, Paris, FRA01	21	₹ 55,665,868.95
CGI, St. Denis-Reunion Island, FRA02	14	₹ 53,026.06
CGI, Birmingham, GBR01	16	₹ 13,381,024.62
CGI, Edinburgh, GBR02	10	₹ 2,101,334.62
HCI, London, GBR03	38	₹ 139,937,599.54
HCI, Accra, GHA01	18	₹ 794,332.00
EoI, Athens, GRC01	8	₹ 1,129,592.61
EoI, Guatemala City, GTM01	0	₹ 803,586.85
HCI, Georgetown, GUY01	9	₹ 382,450.00
EoI, Zagreb, HRV01	70	₹ 126,675.00
EoI, Budapest, HUN01	11	₹ 185,001.92
CGI, Bali, IDN01	11	₹ 281,931.00
EoI, Jakarta, IDN02	15	₹ 515,855.89
CGI, Medan, IDN03	928	₹ 2,006,304.20
EoI, Dublin, IRL01	676	₹ 4,690,158.00
CoI, Bandar Abbas, IRN01	417	₹ 506,004.00
EoI, Tehran, IRN02	84	₹ 6,167,643.00
CoI, Zahidan, IRN03	2	₹ 70,450.00
EoI, Baghdad, IRQ01	3313	₹ 2,523,134.00
EoI, Reykjavik, ISL01	9	₹ 400,453.00
EoI, Tel Aviv, ISR01	49	₹ 6,449,564.00
CGI, Milan, ITA01	256	₹ 83,570,265.93
EoI, Rome, ITA02	4	₹ 18,943,332.60
HCI, Kingston, JAM01	9	₹ 216,636.70

EoI, Amman, JOR01	71	₹ 2,899,915.00
CGI, Osaka-Kobe, JPN01	217	₹ 7,811,751.00
EoI, Tokyo, JPN02	5	₹ 40,342,368.00
EoI, Asta0, KAZ01	1	₹ 424,611.00
ROI, Almaty, KAZ02	36	₹ 654,840.44
AHCI, Mombasa, KEN01	15002	₹ 131,647.00
HCI, Oirobi, KEN02	95	₹ 2,100,070.94
EoI, Bishkek, KGZ01	14	₹ 4,010,405.18
EoI, Phnom Penh, KHM01	4213	₹ 28,609,082.21
EoI, Seoul, KOR01	11	₹ 1,126,019.85
EoI, Kuwait, KWT01	12498	₹ 35,601,763.92
EoI, Vientiane, LAO01	48	₹ 23,211.00
EoI, Beirut, LBN01	864	₹ 3,713,193.00
EoI, Tripoli, LBY01	64	₹ 21,890.88
HCI, Colombo, LKA01	1137	₹ 8,818,258.80
CGI, Hambantota, LKA02	435	₹ 427,192.22
CGI, Jaff0, LKA03	244	₹ 1,452,214.46
AHCI, Kandy, LKA04	19	₹ 36,127.28
EoI, Rabat, MAR01	6314	₹ 6,664,020.48
EoI, Anta00rivo, MDG01	0	₹ 17,141.09
HCI, Male, MDV01	1	₹ 282,832.00
EoI, Mexico City, MEX01	9	₹ 705,895.77
EoI, Bamako, MLI01	787	₹ 2,427,071.27
CGI, Mandalay, MMR01	0	₹ 47,849.00
EoI, Yangon, MMR02	37	₹ 1,612,401.57
EoI, Ulaanbaatar, MNG01	385	₹ 768,103.06
HCI, Maputo, MOZ01	11	₹ 721,480.74
HCI, Port Louis, MUS01	2330	₹ 216,029,557.98
HCI, Lilongwe, MWI01	7	₹ 329,626.42
HCI, Kuala Lumpur, MYS01	3158	₹ 89,372,426.54
HCI, Windhoek, 0M01	82	₹ 2,626,285.93
EoI, Niamey, NER01	2162	₹ 2,731,211.38
HCI, Abuja, NGA01	294	₹ 22,053,116.31
O/HCI, Lagos, NGA02	31	₹ 2,862,818.54
EoI, The Hague, NLD01	2002	₹ 19,430,730.02
EoI, Oslo, NOR01	2	₹ 220,642.96
CGI, Birganj, NPL01	20935	₹ 9,929,598.91
CO, Birat0gar, NPL02	1464	₹ 11,998,363.00
EoI, Kathmandu, NPL03	15585	₹ 41,250,880.42
HCI, Wellington, NZL01	48	₹ 9,271,038.12
EoI, Muscat, OMN01	12322	₹ 55,594,278.51

HCI, Islamabad, PAK01	522	₹ 1,261,401.76
EoI, Pa0ma, PAN01	10	₹ 6,391,463.58
EoI, Lima, PER01	2	₹ 115,537.03
EoI, Ma0a, PHL01	26	₹ 5,944,199.34
HCI, Port Moresby, PNG01	0	₹ 21,954.00
EoI, Warsaw, POL01	87	₹ 3,257,864.40
EoI, Pyongyang, PRK01	0	₹ 690.00
EoI, Lisbon, PRT01	18759	₹ 21,504,875.55
RoI, Ramallah, PSE01	262	₹ 4,240,517.24
EoI, Doha, QAT01	5732	₹ 18,299,562.08
EoI, Bucharest, ROU01	29	₹ 2,898,777.36
EoI, Moscow, RUS01	7	₹ 2,547,102.09
CGI, St. Petersburg, RUS02	2861	₹ 20,988,516.79
CGI, Vladivostok, RUS03	1457	₹ 37,764,407.29
EoI, Riyadh, SAU01	1794	₹ 48,986,156.20
CGI, Jeddah, SAU02	1150	₹ 25,797,569.58
EoI, Belgrade, SCG01	4	₹ 125,637.00
EoI, Khartoum, SDN01	81	₹ 2,342,310.00
EoI, Juba, SDN02	5	₹ 198,531.50
EoI, Dakar, SEN01	377	₹ 4,020,990.00
HCI, Kigali, RWA01	0	₹ 0.00
HCI, Singapore, SGP01	10	₹ 36,153,003.00
HCI, Freetown, SLE01	0	₹ 17,112.00
EoI, Paramaribo, SUR01	1	₹ 12,963.00
EoI, Bratislava, SVK01	972	₹ 2,294,129.00
EoI, Ljubljana, SVN01	2	₹ 45,624.15
EoI, Stockholm, SWE01	7	₹ 3,525,082.40
HCI, Victoria (Mahe), SYC01	869	₹ 1,553,971.38
EoI, Damascus, SYR01	13	₹ 118,038.00
EoI, Bangkok, THA01	26	₹ 1,114,794.01
CGI, Chiangmai, THA02	0	₹ 0.00
EoI, Dushanbe, TJK01	0	₹ 1,281,134.52
EoI, Ashgabat, TKM01	0	₹ 0.00
HCI, Port of Spain, TTO01	1	₹ 56,890.00
EoI, Tunis, TUN01	47	₹ 1,269,018.41
EoI, Ankara, TUR01	3	₹ 13,513.00
CGI, Istanbul, TUR02	12	₹ 856,622.49
India-Taipei Association, Taipei, TWN01	4	₹ 536,125.00
HCI, Dar-es-Salaam, TZA01	18	₹ 1,323,390.97
CGI, Zanzibar, TZA02	1	₹ 24,310.00

HCI, Kampala, UGA01	11	₹ 4,271,331.81
EoI, Kyiv, UKR01	8076	₹ 642,931,726.25
CGI, Atlanta, USA01	8	₹ 51,654,117.61
CGI, Chicago, USA02	138	₹ 9,652,539.00
CGI, Houston, USA03	5	₹ 11,575,620.64
CGI, New York, USA04	21	₹ 14,648,235.00
CGI, San Francisco, USA05	55	₹ 25,050,353.42
EoI, Washington, USA06	5	₹ 1,460,498.00
EoI, Tashkent, UZB01	318	₹ 1,335,268.14
EoI, Caracas, VEN01	552	₹ 502,911.00
EoI, Hanoi, VNM01	2	₹ 551,530.29
CGI, Ho Chi Minh City, VNM02	5	₹ 1,598,561.00
EoI, Sa0a, YEM01	1	₹ 12,256.84
CGI, Cape Town, ZAF01	0	₹ 1,581.00
CGI, Durban, ZAF02	107	₹ 1,367,813.00
CGI, Johannesburg, ZAF03	1	₹ 377,788.00
HCI, Pretoria, ZAF04	8	₹ 1,327,696.00
HCI, Lusaka, ZMB01	1	₹ 998,207.00
EoI, Harare, ZWE01	0	₹ 0.00
PDI, UNESCO, Paris, FRA03	0	₹ 0.00
PMI, New York, USA07	0	₹ 0.00
PMI, Geneva, CHE03	0	₹ 0.00
Indian Mission to ASEAN, Jakarta, IDN04	47	₹ 183,129.00
CGI, Sittwe, MMR03	14787	₹ 11,263.00
HCI, Valletta, MLT01	153	₹ 1,309,450.00
HCI, Mbabane, SWZ01	0	₹ 3,635.00
CGI, Erbil, IRQ02	22	₹ 1,094,640.00
TOTAL	207644	₹ 2,458,533,922.68

Annexure -III

Data on Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Imparted to Emigrant Workers going for overseas employment in ECR Countries

S.N.	PDOT Center	Agency	Emigrant Workers Imparted PDO Training					Total
			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Upto 28 February)	
1.	Mumbai (Videsh Bhawan)	NSDC Empanelled Training Partners under Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)	8933	12330	4646	519	111	26539
	Mumbai (Videsh Bhawan)- online		-	-	-	4728	1880	6608
2.	Mumbai (Andheri)		13616	9849	3066	1580	761	28872
	Mumbai(Andheri) Online		-	-	-	2301	684	2985
3.	Delhi (Okhla)		6097	7088	1288	184	32	14689
4.	Delhi (Mandir Marg)		3305	5609	2067	41	0	11022
5.	Kochi		37	3446	1098	155	2	4738
6.	Lucknow		0	2069	994	145	17	3225
	Lucknow- Online		-	-	-	5	1	6
7.	Gorakhpur		-	360	847	205	59	1471
8.	Chandigarh		-	135	391	153	17	696
9.	Chennai		-	210	799	246	32	1287
10.	Kolkata		-	-	-	296	7	303
11.	Thiruvananthapuram		-	-	-	13	2	15
12.	Jalandhar		-	-	-	17	19	36
13.	Amritsar	-	-	-	7	3	10	
14.	Bhubaneswar	-	-	-	35	5	40	
	Bhubaneswar online	-	-	-	70	6	76	
15.	Bhopal	-	-	-	0	0	0	
16.	Jaipur	Rajasthan Skills and Livelihood Development Corporation (RSLDC)	-	1095	645	79	6	1825
	Jaipur- Online		-	-	-	7	7	14
17.	Sikar		-	690	382	120	4	1196
	Sikar- Online		-	-	-	2	2	4
18.	Nagaur	-	54	73	10	0	137	
19.	Hyderabad	Telangana Overseas Manpower Corporation	-	754	304	252	24	1334
	Hyderabad online		-	-	-	52	26	78
20.	Karimnagar		-	41	92	6	0	139
21.	Nizamabad		-	194	177	10	2	

		(TOMCOM)							383
22.	Darbhanga	Labour Resource Department, Government of Bihar	-	88	77	5	0	170	
23.	Gaya		-	162	265	15	0	442	
24.	Muzaffarpur		-	187	278	17	4	486	
25.	Patna		-	349	181	79	14	623	
26.	Vijayawada	Overseas Manpower Company of Andhra Pradesh (OMCAP)	-	283	420	637	264	1604	
	Vijayawada online					27	0	27	
27.	Kadapa		-	129	153	109	0	391	
28.	Visakhapatnam					20	0	20	
29.	Kakinada					14	0	14	
30.	Chennai	Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, Government of Tamil Nadu	-	-	422	99	3	524	
31.	Bengaluru	Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation	-	-	29	11	143	183	
TOTAL			31988	45122	18694	12271	4137	112212	

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 11 JANUARY, 2021

The Committee sat from 1700 hrs. to 1810 hrs. in Committee Room C, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri P.P. Chaudhary – Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
3. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
4. Smt. Preneet Kaur
5. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi
6. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
7. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
8. Shri P. C. Mohan
9. Shri Ritesh Pandey
10. Dr. K. C. Patel
11. Shri N.K. Premchandran
12. Shri Rebati Tripura

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri K.J. Alphons
14. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
15. Shri P. Chidambaram
16. Shri Brijlal

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya	Secretary (CPV & OIA)
2.	Ms. Manika Jain	Additional Secretary(OIA-II)
3.	Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan	Joint Secretary (OE & PGE)

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 4. | Shri Vipul | Joint Secretary (Gulf) |
| 5. | Shri Abbagani Ramu | Joint Secretary (OIA-I) |
| 6. | Shri Devesh Uttam | Joint Secretary (CPV) |

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | Director |
| 2. | Shri Aftab Alam | Additional Director |
| 3. | Shri Paolienlal Haokip | Additional Director |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs to have a briefing take oral evidence on the subject „Welfare of Indian Diaspora: Policies/Schemes“. The Chairperson then drew the attention of all the representatives to Direction 55 (1) of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha in order to maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings. The Chairperson also apprised the witnesses about the provisions of Direction 58 of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. The representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs provided a broad overview of the profile, extent, distribution and contribution of Indian Diaspora around the world. Thereafter, the Chairperson and the Members raised a number of queries on various issues related to the subject which inter alia included definition of the term Diaspora; role of India Diaspora in developmental agenda; budgetary allocation for welfare of Indian Diaspora; Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD), Protector General of Emigrants; e-Migrate portal; grievance redressal mechanism; Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra; Indian Community Welfare Fund; Emigration Clearance Required system; Migration and Mobility Agreements; India Centre for Migration (ICM); scholarship programme, Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora; draft Migration Management Bill, assistance to Indian students abroad; Pre-Departure Orientation Training Programme (P-DOT) and so on.

4. The representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs responded to the concerns raised by the Members. Before the Sitting concluded, the Chairperson directed the witnesses to furnish written replies to the points raised by the members of the Committee at the earliest.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

ANNEXURE -V

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS HELD ON 29 JUNE, 2021**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1646 hrs. in Committee Room C, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri P.P. Chaudhary – Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
3. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
4. Smt. Preneet Kaur
5. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi
6. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
7. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
8. Shri P. C. Mohan
9. Shri Ritesh Pandey
10. Dr. K. C. Patel
11. Shri N.K. Premchandran
12. Shri Rebati Tripura

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri K.J. Alphons
14. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
15. Shri P. Chidambaram
16. Shri Brijlal

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya	Secretary (CPV & OIA)
2.	Ms. Manika Jain	Additional Secretary(OIA-II)

3.	Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan	Joint Secretary (OE & PGE)
4.	Shri Vipul	Joint Secretary (Gulf)
5.	Shri Abbagani Ramu	Joint Secretary (OIA-I)
6.	Shri Devesh Uttam	Joint Secretary (CPV)

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MSDE)

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Sh. Praveen Kumar	Secretary, MSDE
2.	Ms. Juthika Patankar	Additional Secretary, MSDE
3.	Sh. Atul Kumar Tiwari	Additional Secretary, MSDE
4.	Sh. Manish Kumar	MD & CEO, NSDC

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1.	Dr. Ram Raj Rai	Director
2.	K. Muanniang Tunlut	Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to the Sitting of the Committee convened to take oral evidence on the subject „Welfare of Indian Diaspora: Policies/Schemes“. The Chairperson then drew the attention of all the representatives to Direction 55 (1) of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha in order to maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings. The Chairperson also apprised the witnesses about the provisions of Direction 58 of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

3. After presenting a brief overview of the mechanisms for the welfare, protection and engagement of Indian Diaspora, the Representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs delved upon issues such as Pre-Departure Orientation Training Programme (P-DOT); migration trends accelerated by Covid; grievance redressal mechanisms; Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF); Videsh Sampark programmes; Labour & Manpower Cooperation Agreements; Pravasi Bharatiya DIwas (PDB), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and so on.

4. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship apprised the Committee about skilling curriculum and framework under PDot; National Council

for Vocational Education and Training; measures to improve domestic skilling; skill mapping and matching; Sector Skill Councils etc.

5. During the course of discussion, the Chairperson and the Members raised a number of queries about PDOT Online Programme; problems faced by Indian students abroad; international benchmarks for skill development; rehabilitation of returnee migrants; Know India Programme (KIP); Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY); Media campaigns; assistance to distressed women etc.

6. The representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs and Skill Development and Training responded to the concerns raised by the Members. Before the Sitting concluded, the Chairperson directed the witnesses to furnish written replies to the points raised by the members of the Committee at the earliest.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

ANNEXURE-VI

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 22 DECEMBER, 2021**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1605 hrs. in Committee Room „B’, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

Shri Prakash Javadekar – In the Chair

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
3. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
4. Shri P.C. Mohan
5. Smt. Queen Oja
6. Shri Ritesh Pandey
7. Dr. K.C. Patel
8. Shri N.K. Premchandran
9. Shri Manne Srinivas Reddy
10. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

RAJYA SABHA

11. Shri K. J. Alphons
12. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
13. Shri Brijlal

14. Shri Swapan Dasgupta
15. Shri K. Somaprasad

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya	Secretary (CPV & OIA)
2.	Ms. Manika Jain	Additional Secretary (OIA-II)
3.	Shri T. Armstrong Changsan	Joint Secretary (PSP&CPO) / (OE & PGE)
4.	Shri Vipul	Joint Secretary (Gulf)
5.	Shri Anil Kumar Rai	Joint Secretary (Parl. & Coord.)
6.	Shri Abbagani Ramu	Joint Secretary (OIA-I)
7.	Shri Devesh Uttam	Joint Secretary (CPV)

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. Ram Raj Rai - Joint Secretary
2. K. Muanniang Tunlut - Deputy Secretary

In the absence of Chairperson of the Committee, the Committee chose Shri Prakash Javadekar, M.P., Rajya Sabha under Rule 258(3), to act as Chairperson for the sitting. At the outset, the Acting Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to have oral evidence in connection with detailed examination of the subject „Welfare of Indian Diaspora: Policies/Schemes“. He then drew the attention of all the witnesses to Direction 55 (1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha pertaining to maintaining the confidentiality of the Proceedings and Direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. Outlining the issues to be discussed, he requested the witnesses to introduce themselves before making submissions before the Committee.

2. The Secretary (CPV & OIA) highlighted the Ministry's approach and engagement with the Indian diaspora through its various schemes and programmes.

3. Thereafter, the Members raised various issues which *inter alia* included, the availability of authentic statistical data of Indian diaspora in various countries, especially Middle East and Gulf countries; role of Indian Embassies/Missions in the welfare and rescue of Indian citizens abroad; need for greater participation of NRIs in Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations; comprehensive rehabilitation scheme for Gulf returnees and other workers; issue of medical graduate students studying in China who could not go back due to the pandemic; simplification of the procedure for issuance of OCI cards and transportation of dead body of Indian citizens who died abroad; nature of distress for which the Indian Embassies/Missions provided assistance; creation of infrastructure/support system for students studying abroad; achievements under Videsh Sampark and Know India Programme, etc.

4. The representatives of the Ministry responded to the queries of the Members. Before the Sitting concluded, the Acting Chairperson directed the principal witness to furnish written replies on the points raised by the Members to the Secretariat of the Committee at the earliest.

The witnesses then withdrew

The Committee then adjourned

A verbatim record of the Proceedings has been kept.

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2021-22) HELD ON 01 AUGUST, 2022

The Committee sat on Monday, 01 August, 2022 from 1000 hrs. to 1045 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

1. Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Dileshwar Kamait
3. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
4. Smt. Poonam Mahajan
5. Shri N.K. Premachandran
6. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
7. Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Rajya Sabha

8. Smt. Jaya Bachchan
9. Shri Brijlal
10. Shri Prakash Javadekar

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Ram Raj Rai | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Reena Gopalakrishnan | - | Director |
| 3. | Ms. K. Muanniang Tunglut | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee.
3. The Committee took up for consideration the draft Report on the subject „Welfare of Indian Diaspora: Policies/Schemes“.

4. The Chairperson invited the Members to offer their suggestions, if any, for incorporation in the draft Report. The members suggested some minor modifications. The Committee adopted the draft Report with these minor modifications.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Report incorporating the suggestions made by the Members and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.