

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) A conference of oil industry experts was organised by TERI, a non-Governmental Organisation, during 18-20 July, 1995 in New Delhi, which was attended by delegates from various countries all over the world especially the central Asian countries. Issues of common interest in the field of energy trade, energy conservation, technology transfer, environmental management, funding mechanism, database and exchange of information were deliberated in the conference.

Facilities to NRIs

392. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRIs have been demanding the issue of dual citizenship to them; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government propose to issue orange card to NRIs instead of dual citizenship; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) what are the problems faced by NRIs living in USA and other countries and how Government propose to solve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The demand for dual citizenship has been raised by certain organisations of NRIs in several fora in the recent past. The Government have not accepted the demand for dual citizenship as the concept is not consistent with the Constitution of India and the Citizenship Act, 1995.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Government is aware of the consular, commercial and other types of problems and needs of NRIs in the U.S. and other countries. Government is sensitive to the problems faced by NRIs living in the USA and other countries. Our Missions abroad remain in close touch with the Indian community living in their areas of accreditation. On receipt of a complaint, the Mission tries to resolve the problem by taking up the case with the concerned authorities of the foreign Government or the employer.