

The Ministry has launched a scheme in 2007 to provide legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses through Indian Missions abroad.

The Ministry has brought out information pamphlets in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam and Telugu to make Indian women aware of their rights and responsibilities and precautions that could be exercised before entering into marital alliance with overseas Indians.

The Ministry has brought out a guidance booklet on “Marriages to Overseas Indians” in English, Telugu, Hindi, and Punjabi. This booklet contains information on safeguards available to women deserted by their NRI spouses, legal remedies available, authorities that can be approached for redressal of grievances, and NGOs which can provide assistance.

The Ministry has launched the publicity cum awareness campaign through audio visual advertisement on regional T.V. network primarily to cover the States of Punjab, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

An Inter-Ministerial sub-committee was constituted in May, 2007 under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and with representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Law and Justice, National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission and State Governments of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh as Members to find out ways and means to assist Indian women who are deserted by their overseas Indian spouses.

Recommendations made by the sub-committee were considered at an inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Hon<sup>ble</sup> Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs on 7th July, 2008. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State for Women and Child Development also attended the meeting. The decisions taken at the meeting have been circulated to concerned Ministries, State Governments and Government agencies for appropriate action.

#### **Attacks on PIOs and Indian students**

65. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of People of Indian Origin and Indian students attacked in several countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Some reports of the attack have been received. Available details are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 217 Annexure No. 6]

(c) Incidents involving Indian nationals are taken up with the local authorities by our Missions/Posts abroad at appropriate level. Details of steps taken by the Government in respect of recent incidents in Australia are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to SQ No. 15 Pt (a) to (c)]