

Voting rights for NRIs

805. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

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

- (a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to allow NRI's to have voting rights in India before the next general election scheduled in 2014;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) by when a Bill on the subject is expected to be introduced in Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 2006. The Bill seeks to amend section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) to enable Indian citizens who are absent from their place of ordinary residence in India owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside the country, to get their names registered in the electoral rolls of the constituency of their place of ordinary residence in India to be able to cast their votes in the Parliamentary/State elections, in case they happen to be in their constituency at the time of polls. The Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, and Law & Justice on the 26th March, 2006 for examination and report. The Committee presented its 16th report on the subject to the Rajya Sabha/laid it in the Lok Sabha on the 4th August, 2006. In its report, the Committee, while agreeing with the letter and spirit of the proposed bill for amendment, had recommended the bringing of a comprehensive bill on the subject, containing all the details regarding the manner of enrolment of the Non-Resident Indians, the mode of voting and the conditionalities for contesting elections. The Legislative Department in the Ministry of Law and Justice is working on a draft bill, which will be presented to Parliament after approval by the Cabinet.

Pending Parliamentary Bills

806. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are 15 bills pending with the Rajya Sabha which were introduced prior to 2005 including one from 1987; and
- (b) the reasons why they are in such a limbo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, 15 Bills introduced prior to 2005 including one from 1987 are pending with the Rajya Sabha; and

(b) These pending Bills relate to various Ministries/Departments, and are pending with the administrative Ministries/Departments at various stages due to varying reasons. The administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with these Bills are required to complete the procedural formalities for getting these Bills passed/withdrawn in the Rajya Sabha.

Fake SC/ST certificates

807. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that these days there are a lot of complaints for fake Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates in case of employment in Government jobs;

(b) how many complaints have been received in last three years in all over the country, State-wise details;

(c) the action taken against those cases who have already sought employment on the basis of fake caste certificates; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Some cases of appointments allegedly made on the basis of fake caste certificates under the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Urban Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Commerce etc. came to the notice of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

(b) Information is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) If it is established that a candidate secured employment on the basis of a fake certificate, he is removed from service.

Rules for appointment of retired bureaucrats

†808. SHRI PRABAHT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rule and regulation has been prescribed for appointment of retired bureaucrats on constitutional posts as well as top posts of Government regulatory bodies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of retired bureaucrats posted on various posts in constitutional as well as Government regulatory bodies?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.