

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Election Commission, the Central Government issued a Gazette notification number S.O. 425 (E) dated 23rd February, 2011 raising the ceiling on expenditure by candidates in respect of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies. The notification has been put on the website of the Law Ministry [www.lawmin.nic.in](http://www.lawmin.nic.in). Action has been taken to lay a copy of the notification on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) As per sub-section (1) of section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 every candidate at an election shall, either by himself or by his election agent, keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure in connection with the election incurred or authorised by him or by his election agent between the date on which he has been nominated and the date of declaration of the result thereof, both dates inclusive.

#### **Voting rights to NRIs**

1946. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide voting rights to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Representation of People Act, 1951 has already been amended *vide* the Representation of People (Amendment) Act, 2010 (36 of 2010) so as to enable the citizens of India, who are away from their ordinary place of residence in India and residing abroad owing to their employment, education or otherwise, who have not acquired the citizenship of any other country and who are eligible to be registered as voters in the electoral rolls of the Assembly/ Parliamentary Constituency in India to get themselves registered in the electoral roll as Overseas Electors. The Central Government issued necessary rules for giving effect to the aforesaid amendment Act *vide* the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2011 [S.O. 244 (E) dated the 3rd February, 2011] read with Corrigenda [S.O. 306 (E) dated the 9th February, 2011] and the Registration of Electors (Second Amendment) Rules, 2011 [S.O. 426(E) dated the 23rd February, 2011]. The aforesaid Amendment Act was brought into force on 10th February, 2011.

#### **Rural and agro industries**

1947. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :