

Indian mission in Colombo to help ethnic Indians

2680. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians mission in Colombo helps the ethnic Indian trace their roots for fee of Rs. 20000/-; and

(b) whether the Ministry would come forward to offer these services free of cost to the Sri Lankan Tamils if they are found not to be able to afford the same?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):

(a) Yes Sir, MOIA is running a scheme of 'Tracing the Roots' to facilitate Persons of Indian Origin in tracing their roots in India, on payment of Rs. 30,000/-. It is common for all the countries, including Sri Lanka.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, there is a provision in the scheme to refund two-thirds of the fees collected to the applicant, in case the attempt to trace the roots is not successful

Agreement on Cooperation on Social Security

2681. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has signed any agreement to enhance cooperation on social security with various countries for Social Security;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) the details of the terms and conditions of such agreements, country-wise;

(d) the number of Indians working as professional and self-employed in various countries as on 31 December, 2012, country-wise; and

(e) the extent to which Indians residing in various countries would be benefited from such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has signed Social Security Agreements