

Voting right to NRIs

*384. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have a right to cast their vote in India during Assembly or Parliament Election, if so, the procedure thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that NRIs have been making demand that they be allowed the right to vote through postal ballot at the place where they are residing, if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government would make arrangement for voting in Indian Embassy premises by creating a booth there so that NRIs can cast their vote?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Under Section 20A of the Representation of People Act, 1950, as notified in September, 2010, and rules made thereunder, every citizen of India-(a) whose name is not included in the electoral roll; (b) who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country; and (c) who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise outside India (whether temporarily or not), is entitled to have his/her name registered in the electoral roll as "Overseas electors" in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located.

Such persons who have completed 18 years of age as on 1st January of the year can file applications for the purpose of enrollment in prescribed Form 6A before the Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency concerned.

The application accompanied by duly self attested copy of the documents mentioned in the said form can be filed in person before the concerned Electoral Registration Officer or sent by post or can be filed online on website of Chief Electoral Officer of the concerned State or website of Election Commission of India. While filing Form 6A online, copies of necessary documents should also be uploaded.

After getting enrolled in the electoral roll, such person can cast one's vote in

India during Assembly or Parliamentary election at the respective polling station after showing his/her valid Indian passport.

(b) There has been a demand from the NRIs for providing voting by postal ballot. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, postal ballots are presently allowed only to specified categories are shown in Statement (*See below*). This facility is not available even to resident Indians who are away from their constituency. Accordingly, it has also not been provided to NRIs.

(c) No, Sir. Presently voting is allowed on the concerned booth within the constituency or through postal ballot for specified categories. So creating a booth outside the constituency is not presently foreseen. Apart from this, due to practical difficulties, this is unworkable.

Statement

Postal ballots are allowed presently only to the following categories of voters:-

- (a) Member of armed forces of the Union.
 - (b) Member of force to which provisions of the Army Act, 1950 (46 of 1950) have been made applicable whether with or without modifications.
 - (c) Member of armed police force of a state who is serving outside that State.
 - (d) Person who is employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India.
 - (e) Wife of a person referred to at (a) to (d) above.
 - (f) Employees on poll duty.
 - (g) Special Voters, like, President of India, Vice-President, Prime Minister and other Minister of the Centre and States, etc.
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Steps to reduce slums in Andhra Pradesh

*385. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that slum towns in Andhra Pradesh have gone up