

(b) whether Government has considered regulating and monitoring agents and agencies who are involved in overseas Indian workers, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has considered staffing Indian Embassies with multilingual staff, especially those in Singapore, Malaysia with more Tamil speakers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Whenever a complaint is received from any Indian worker abroad through telephone, e-mail, social media etc., for assistance, such complaints are registered by the Missions and necessary support provided. The Indian Mission has generally been successfully taking up the cases of Indian emigrants with the concerned local Government authorities/sponsors and employers etc. for redressal of their grievances. Support are in the form of contacting employers and recruiting agencies to resolve the problems, providing shelter for distressed emigrants, emergency medical cases, legal counseling, repatriation of stranded emigrant at Government cost etc. Indian Missions also have help line, walk-in center for redressal of their grievances.

(b) The employment of Indian migrants is regulated by the Emigration Act, 1983 and the Emigration Rules, 1983 as amended from time to time.

(c) Embassies engage multilingual staff as and when required. The High Commission of India at Singapore and Malaysia have staff who can speak Tamil.

Granting of dual citizenship

1756. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to grant dual citizenship to overseas Indians who have taken up citizenship in the countries of their residence; and

(b) if so, the time-frame by which it would be done, if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scholarship under SPDC programme

1757. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a scholarship under Scholarship Programmes for Diaspora Children (SPDC);