

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1614
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

ELIGIBILITY OF OCI CARD

1614. SHRI SURESH GOPI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister had announced on 28.09.2014 at Madison Square Garden, New York, that holders of Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) Card would be eligible for lifelong visa and this was implemented and turned into a reality short afterwards;
- (b) whether the OCI Card Number would be considered as an equivalent to the Aadhaar Card Number; and
- (c) if so, whether the OCI Cards could be used for availing Governmental and non-governmental services in India, like Aadhaar card?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) Yes. In his speech at Madison Square Garden, New York on September 28, 2014, Prime Minister announced the merger of PIO and OCI schemes. As per the Gazette of India (Part-I, Section-I) published on 09.01.2015, all the existing Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders registered as such under new PIO Card scheme 2002, shall be deemed to be Overseas Citizens of India Cardholder. All PIO card holders with valid PIO cards as on 09.01.2015 have been advised to apply for conversion of their PIO card to OCI card. All such PIO cardholders along with the existing OCI cardholders are eligible for multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for any purpose.
- (b) No.
- (c) OCI cardholders are eligible for several benefits which have been notified by Government of India from time to time.
