

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 77
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

FEES FOR OCI CARD SCHEME AND ITS MANAGEMENT

***77. Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been misapplication of fees in the overseas citizenship of India (OCI) card scheme leading to a revenue loss of Rs.58.23 crores;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some financial irregularities have been reported in setting up of Indian Cultural Centres in Paris and Washington; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. S. JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 77 for reply on 09.02.2023 regarding fees for OCI card scheme and its management asked by Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque.

(a to d): The Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India is considered as an institution that is helpful in promoting good governance. Its findings are useful tools for all concerned, including the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), to further improve its performance. On 20.12.2022, the CAG tabled Union Government (Civil) Compliance Audit Observation Report No. 24 of 2022 in Parliament. The Report contains audit findings arising from compliance audit of financial transactions under 54 grants relating to 28 Civil Ministries/Departments/Constitutional Bodies of the Union Government under the general and social services sectors and central public enterprises.

The Report also has observations on fees for OCI card scheme and its management as well as setting up of Indian Cultural Centres in Paris and Washington. The property for Indian Cultural Centre at Paris was purchased in the year 2011 whereas in Washington, it was purchased in 2013. These properties have faced certain challenges in preparing them for their intended use after their purchase, including delay during Covid period.

As per existing guidelines on outstanding Audit paras, Action Taken Notes (ATN) on paragraphs mentioned in the CAG Report are to be furnished to the PAC through e-APMS Portal. The ATN in respect of OCI Fee and setting up of Indian Cultural Centre at Paris has been uploaded on 30.01.2023 and 08.02.2023, respectively.
