

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1876**

**ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023**

**PARTICIPATION OF OVERSEAS INDIANS/NRIs IN ELECTIONS**

**1876. Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao :**

**Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:**

- (a) present election rules for overseas Indians to enrol as eligible voters in Assembly and Parliamentary elections;
- (b) specific provisions in election rules in this regard with their date of commencement, and number of overseas Indians registered as eligible voters as per such provisions;
- (c) whether Election Commission of India (ECI) proposed ETPBS facility to overseas Indians, details thereof;
- (d) Government's response to ECI's e-ballot proposal;
- (e) any other voting provisions under consideration of the Government for overseas Indians; and
- (f) the reason for dropping the proposal of proxy voting facility to overseas Indians after the Bill was passed by Lok Sabha?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) and (b): Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides for the special provisions for citizens of India residing outside India. Rules 8A and 8B of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 provides for the registration of citizen of India residing outside India as overseas electors and inclusion of their names in the electoral rolls. The total number of overseas electors with respect to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 as the qualifying date is 115696 as per Special Summary Revision-2023 conducted by the Election Commission of India.

(c) to (e): The Election Commission of India has taken up a proposal to amend the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 to facilitate Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System for overseas electors. The matter is under discussions with the Ministry of External Affairs to iron out the logistical challenges involved in the implementation of the proposal.

(f): On the recommendation of the Election Commission of India, a Bill, namely, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2018, to enable the overseas electors to cast their votes either in person or by proxy, was passed by the Lok Sabha on 09.08.2018. The Bill was pending in the Rajya Sabha for consideration but lapsed due to the dissolution of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

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