

SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE-I(HQ)



के. मोहनदास
K. Mohandas

भारत सरकार
अकबर भवन, चाणक्यपुरी
नई दिल्ली - 110 021

Secretary
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
Government of India
Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi - 110 021
Tel. : 24674143 & 44, Fax : 24674140

D.O.No.OI-19016/5/2007-SS

August 19, 2008

Dear

Over the years, the problem of Indian women trapped in fraudulent Overseas Indian marriages has increased appreciably. The problem is manifold and includes aspects such as dowry, concealment of earlier/existing marriages, marriages of convenience etc. These problems are further aggravated by the fact that though these marriages are usually solemnized as per Indian customs, the same can be dissolved by foreign courts who may not necessarily have knowledge of Indian culture and family values. Lack of comprehensive and special laws to deal with such issues adds to the misery of the victims.

Ever since the formation of this Ministry in 2004, the problems of desertion of Indian women by their overseas Indian spouses have attracted its attention. The Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs and the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of women (2006-2007) have also sought adequate attention to be given to the issue.

To discuss ways and means to assist Indian women who are deserted by their overseas husbands, to explore steps that could be taken to prevent such fraudulent marriages and to determine possible legal action that could be taken against such overseas Indians spouses, the Ministry constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Law & Justice, National Commission for Women and National Human Rights Commission. The recommendations made by the Inter Ministerial Committee that pertain to the State Governments /UTs are given below:

- (i) All marriages solemnized in India should be compulsorily registered. the proforma for registration of marriages should be uniform in all states and should contain all relevant information that would help in identification of the persons. The proforma for registration of marriages should also have columns, for overseas Indians, providing the social security number, passport particulars, ID card/labour card etc to build a proper identification and tracking system. (Ministry of Law & Justice has been tasked with preparation of a uniform proforma for registration of marriages).



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

08 AUG 2013

पी.आर. देवी प्रसाद

आर्थिक सलाहकार

P.R. Devi Prasad

Economic Adviser



Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Government of India

Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi - 110 021

F.No. OI-19013/34/2013-DS

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (REVENUE)
CUM-A.D.M.(HQ)

Dear Sir,
13 AUG 2013

- 8 AUG 2013

5th August 2013

Dehi Sachivalaya
R&I Br.
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Dy. No. 5184
12 AUG 2013

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DIARY NO.

I am writing this in the context of registration of marriages of Indian women with NRIs/PIOs. As you would be aware the States were encouraged to promote registration of such marriages with necessary disclosures like social security number, passport particulars and efficient tracking of the parties vide this Ministry's D.O. No. OI-19016/5/2007-SS dated 19.08.2008. (Copy enclosed for ready reference). Now MOIA is proposing to create a web-based grievance redressal mechanism for women in distress, if the distress is arising from their marriage with NRIs/PIOs.

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In this background, may I request you to kindly let this Ministry know whether the registration of marriages between Indians and NRIs/PIOs has been made compulsory in your State. I would also appreciate if you let us know the strategy for disclosing the "demographic statistics" of such marriages on the website of the State, while also protecting the privacy and personal information of the concerned individuals. Such inputs would be helpful to the Ministry in creating the web based grievance redressal portal. I would request you to kindly arrange to send your inputs to us by 31.08.2013.

Further, I would like to invite your attention to a publication under the title "Marriages to Overseas Indians – a Guidance Booklet" brought out by the Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs. This is available at MOIA website. (http://moia.gov.in/pdf/Marriages_to_Overseas_Indians_a_Guidance_Booklet.pdf).

Since it is a five year old publication we are in the process of updating some

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addresses given in the Booklet. Meanwhile, may I suggest you to instruct your District Collectors, District Officers of Women and Child Development Department as also Registrars of marriages to prominently display the contents of the booklet for the guidance of brides and their parents on their web-sites and in the offices of Registrars of marriage.

You may also consider to disseminate the core contents from the booklet in local language and post the soft copy on State Government website. This would go a long way in increasing the awareness, particularly among the prospective brides before they get married to NRIs/PIOs bridegrooms. You would agree that such awareness would bring down unintended adverse consequences of NRI marriage.

Respectful
With regards,

Yours sincerely
[Signature]
(P.R.Devi Prasad) -

Shri Rakesh Mehta, IAS
Chief Secretary
Govt. of NCT Delhi,
Delhi Secretariat
I.P.Estate
New Delhi-110002

Encl: As above.