

The United Kingdom



The Swaminarayan Hindu Mission, London – the biggest temple in Europe



*Lord Tarsem Singh King, Mayor of Sandwell, first Sikh to be made member of the House of Lords
(Photo Courtesy: Focus Studio, Birmingham)*

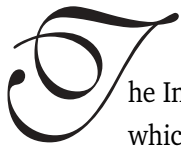


*Dadabhai Naoroji
First Indian elected to UK Parliament.*



*Shri Guru Nanak Dev Gurudwara Sahib, Birmingham
(Photo Courtesy: Focus Studio, Birmingham)*

Introduction



The Indian community in the U.K. has a unique place in our Diaspora. The U.K. is the first country which has an Indian community truly representative of its diversity. The colonial connection between India and the U.K. had ensured intimate interaction between the two countries at all levels for over two centuries. This has obviously contributed to the evolution of an Indian community in Britain comprising of all sections of the people. The presence of a moderate intellectual elite comprising of very eminent patriots like Dadabhai Naoroji and Gopal Krishan Gokhale ensured Indian participation in the British political process from the early stages of India's Independence Movement. Dadabhai Naoroji elected to the House of Commons as a Liberal Member as early as 1892. He was a successful Parsi businessman, who became the 'Grand Old Man of the Congress' represented Indian opinion in the UK and applied his liberal education and experience in the UK to India's problems. He was followed by Sir Mancherjee Bhawangree (Conservative, 1895 to 1906) and Shapurji Saklatvala (Labour, 1922, and as Communist MP, 1924). A number of Indian organisations were founded in Britain to work for India's independence. Almost all of them believed in mobilizing British public opinion for their cause. This further contributed to Indians becoming a part of the British political process. The Indian student bodies in Oxford and Cambridge were among the most active student organisations in these universities. Krishna Menon enjoyed personal friendship with the leadership of the Labour Party.

- 10.2. A large number of Indian leaders of the Independence Movement, including Mahatma Gandhi, were deeply influenced by the liberal education they had received in the U.K. The non-violent nature of the Indian Independence Movement resulted not only in the peaceful departure of the British from India but also helped in continuation of ties with the UK.
- 10.3. Participation of a large number of Indian soldiers in both the First and Second World Wars had also created special bonds between the Armed Forces of the two countries. The largest number of Victoria Cross recipients were Indians. Because of these bonds, a number of people in India felt that they had claims on the Empire as equal citizens. This was an important factor in the migration of Sikhs to various parts of the Empire. The foundations of Indology were laid in the UK during

the colonial times. Every major university in the UK had departments for deep and serious India studies. The civilisational impact of India was felt in the UK very strongly in the 19th century owing to the works of India's social reformers and philosopher Raja Ram Mohan Roy and British personalities who studied the civilization of India. Warren Hastings expressed deep praise for the Bhagawat Gita as the most wonderful text of its kind in the world. The colonial policy had moreover resulted in the emergence of Indian communities in virtually every part of the Empire. Through their hard work, perseverance and expertise they played a vital role in the transformation of these colonies into organised economies and modern states. A number of these PIOs subsequently migrated to Britain, thus creating unique segments within the large Indian Diaspora of the U.K. The presence of such extraordinary diversity in a country with which India had over two centuries of colonial relationship had resulted in this truly unique Diaspora. A substantial presence of PIOs in the British Parliament, several hundred Councillors and a substantial number of Mayors reflect the significant participation of PIOs in the public life and political processes in the UK. Among other prominent PIO citizens are the industrial giants, hoteliers, traders, media men, scientists, artists, cultural and literary figures, academicians and sportsmen of eminence.

Brief History of Migration

- 10.4. The origins of the present day Indian Diaspora lay in the variety of interactions between the long British Raj and India. The Parsi community of Gujarat and the Bengali community arrived in Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries as qualified lawyers, doctors, professionals to settle down in the UK. The Parsis dominated the Indian community in the UK as the earliest settlers. During the First and Second World Wars, many British Indian Army soldiers who were part of the war effort, settled down in Britain.
- 10.5. The largest settlements however, occurred after 1947. The first influx of Indians into the UK from post independence India took place in the 50s and 60s. Large numbers of workers, mainly of Punjabi origin, went to the UK in the aftermath of the post-World War-II reconstruction efforts in the industrial sectors. The second major wave was in the 60s and 70s when PIOs, mainly of Gujarati origin, were forced to leave erstwhile British colonies in East Africa. The Asians who were uprooted from Uganda in large numbers by Idi-Amin constituted an important segment of the PIOs who went to Britain in a large influx in the early and mid 70s. Many of them left the UK for the USA thereafter reflecting secondary and tertiary waves of PIO migration. The second wave had considerable expertise in trade and business. The economic successes and prosperity of the Indian community in the UK commenced in a major way with this second wave of migration, establishing the Indians as 'shopkeepers in the nation of shopkeepers.' It made a major impact on the socio-economic landscape of the UK and its multi-cultural fabric.
- 10.6. The Sikh migrant communities initially comprised only of men, resulting in large demographic gender imbalances. The arrival of families in the UK had the effect of strengthening the pattern of family life along the lines that existed in India. Traditional customs, religions and cultural values

were also maintained. Second and third generation Asians, however, had difficulties in conforming to them. The pressures of discrimination from the dominant society led to further strains and consolidation of the traditional lifestyle of the minorities. However, the growth of an Asian sub-culture is seen in the combined Bhangra and Western dance music, which reflects the synthesis of the British and Asian cultures. The Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities in the 50s and 60s experienced difficulties in assimilation in the UK owing to their very distinct lifestyles and cultures which were vastly different from those of the mainstream host society. This brought a new concept of 'multi-culturalism' on the public agenda of the UK, which emphasized the need of co-existence of different cultures to enrich the multi-cultural fabric of the nation.

- 10.7. In the last decade, the population of the UK has remained stable, but it has been ageing like the population of many other developed countries. This has led to a dependence on young workers from non-Western countries, especially high-tech skilled workers such as IT experts, doctors, teachers, and engineers.
- 10.8. The number of British work permits issued to immigrants from India has risen steadily from 1,997 in 1995 to 5,663 in 1999. Of the total number of work permits granted in 1999 by the UK, 51.4 per cent were for work in the computer industry. At least two-thirds of all software professionals now entering Britain are from India. This is due to amendments in the work permit rules last year which facilitate the entry of more information technology-trained foreigners. Those amendments have opened the floodgates for Indian IT professionals, as Britain faces a massive skills shortage in IT. Government figures show 18,257 foreign IT professionals coming to Britain in 2000. Of them 11,474 were from India. In 2001, according to official estimates, these numbers are rising faster. Last year, the second highest number of IT professionals (2,034) came from the US, of whom, many are of Indian origin. Many of the 748 professionals who came from South Africa, and the 708 who came from Australia are also reportedly of Indian origin. Within Asia, Indian professionals have clearly taken a substantial lead over others in taking up IT jobs in Britain. 132 came from Pakistan, 69 from Sri Lanka and 15 from Bangladesh. India is thus becoming a generic supplier of skills to Britain, as indeed to the rest of the developed world.
- 10.9. India and the UK are making efforts to intensify their economic cooperation, so as to make it future-oriented in emerging and growth areas such as information technology. Non-traditional knowledge-based sectors like IT and bio-technology have therefore acquired great prominence and promise in bilateral relations. Nearly 100 Indian companies are resident in the UK and 65 of them are in the IT sector. The Government of the UK has also expressed considerable interest in facilitating Indian IT professionals to work in the UK by taking several initiatives such as adding IT skills in the list of skill shortages in March 2000 and introducing an innovators visa scheme in September 2000. This would facilitate the conversion of student visas into work permits in the skill shortage categories while the individual concerned stays in the UK. It is therefore obvious that the Diaspora in the UK will continue to grow and also acquire even greater diversity in the coming years.

Demographics

- 10.10. According to the official statistics for the year 1999-2000, the total population of the UK was 56.9 million. Of them the number of PIOs and NRIs was 942,000 – i.e. 1.6% of the total. On a more informal basis, however, it is estimated that the size of the Indian community today is closer to around 1.2 million – i.e. 2.11% of the total population.
- 10.11. Over 40% of the Indian origin population lives in inner and outer London. It is concentrated in the boroughs of Ealing (Southall), Brent (Wembly), Hounslow, Barnet, Croydon and Newham. Outside London, the main areas of concentration are West and East Midlands, Leicester and Greater Manchester. As the following table indicates, Indians constitute a sizeable proportion of the total population in several areas :

Brent	(17.5%)	Newham	(13%)
Ealing	(16.1%)	Leicester	(22.3%)
Slough	(12.5%)	Harrow	(16.1%)
Hounslow	(14.3%)	Redbridge	(10.2%)
Wolverhampton	(11.4%)	Barnet	(7.3%)
Blackburn	(7.7%)		

- 10.12. A majority of the original immigrants of the 1960s and 1970s were industrial workers. The later immigrants from East Africa are mostly in small and medium-scale business and also the health sector. A majority of the second generation Indians and current immigrants are professionals working as doctors, engineers, solicitors, chartered accountants, academicians, IT experts, etc.
- 10.13. An important trend in non-EU immigration in recent years to the UK is accounted for by family reunification and marriage migration, in which the Indian subcontinent has a major share.
- 10.14. Persons of Indian origin constitute the single largest ethnic minority in Britain. Amongst the Indian immigrants, the largest number, approx. 45%, hail from the Punjab, of whom the 300,000 Sikhs form a large majority. Gujaratis comprising of Hindus and Muslims, Ismailis and Bohras constitute an equally large ethnic group. The Diaspora from Bengal, Bihar and UP, though numerically small, form influential groups in some selected pockets.

Socio-cultural Profile

- 10.15. The Indian community today maintains a vibrant and dynamic socio-cultural life within the framework of its numerous organisations and associations which are based mainly on their Indian religious or regional origin. In addition, there are a number of social, cultural and political

organisations. Though nearly 1000 organisations exist on paper, only about 200 among them are active. The community organisations are by and large constituted around the following alignments:

- (a) Religion based organisations: Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians and Parsis have their religion based organisations. Important amongst these are Hindu Cultural Society, Indian Muslim Federation, Ahmadiya Muslim Association, Dawoodi Bohra Community, Arya Samaj, Jain Samaj Europe, Sikh Forum, Namdhari Sangat, Zoroastrian Organisation, Indian Christian Organisations, Ambedkar & Buddhist Organisation, etc.
- (b) Organisations based on regional or ethnic alignments: Most of the regional and linguistic groups have their own organisations. Prominent among them are Confederation of Gujarati Organisations, Andhra Association, Bengali Association, Goan Association, British Malayali Association, Maharashtra Mandal, Punjab Unity Forum, etc.
- (c) Organisations with a political orientation: These include rival groups of Indian Overseas Congress, Indian Workers' Association, Friends of BJP, VHP, etc.

- 10.16. The Indian community's divisions into sub groups on religious and regional lines tend to limit capability in terms of influence-building even though the community remains united on major issues concerning India. However, some of the emotive issues related to caste or religious affiliations in India do sometimes find their echo in the utterances of some community leaders in the UK.
- 10.17. Religious and cultural identity have been a significant factor in helping the community to cope with the stresses of adjustment in a foreign land. This is evident in the vast mushrooming of gurudwaras, temples and mosques as well as committees which administer them. There are about 800 such committees in the UK of which nearly half are temple committees. Many religious functions are organised in the temples, gurudwaras and mosques. Swami Narayana Temple, the largest temple complex, has found its way to the Guinness Book of World Records. The landscape of the Indian community settlements is dotted with temples, both Hindu and Jain. There are also prominent Buddhist Viharas of the Ambedkarites groups.
- 10.18. The Indian community is culturally very active. It organizes numerous cultural and religious festivals to maintain cultural ties with India. There is no formal cultural exchange programme between India and the UK. Cultural exchanges, however, take place through mutual interest and negotiations are held between organisations/institutions on a regular basis. Several Indian artists are presented in the UK each year.
- 10.19. The Nehru Centre was established in 1992 in London. It functions as part of the High Commission of India, with the objective of show-casing the cultural and intellectual achievements of India. Both the Centre as well as the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan have performed a very useful role in fulfilling the cultural needs of the Indian community and assisting it in establishing links with its Indian cultural roots.

- 10.20. The popularity of Hindi films and ethnic television is a major element in keeping the Indian Diaspora and, in particular, its second and subsequent generations in touch with India. The reach of the Hindi cinema cuts across barriers of language, religion and caste which are otherwise seen in most community organisations. In addition to all sections of the Indian community, Hindi films enjoy considerable popularity amongst the other South Asian communities, and have started to attract mainstream audiences.
- 10.21. Indians have done exceedingly well in the sphere of education, to which they attach considerable importance. It is no mean achievement that today the Indian community's educational performance is assessed as being higher than that of the majority community of Britain. Approximately 30 Indians occupy permanent positions as professors in major universities and research institutions in various disciplines including engineering, computer science, biochemistry, chemistry, aerospace and others.
- 10.22. The national honours and awards of the UK invariably include several PIOs for their distinguished contribution and services to their adopted country. Compared to other South Asian communities in the UK, the Indian community is considered the best-educated, qualified and law-abiding community. This differentiation is now being noticed by social scientists and the media, persuading them to look at the Indian community as a distinct category and not just in terms of the larger 'Asian' community. The Indian community has no major conflicts with the host community.
- 10.23. First generation migrants remain nostalgic about the parent country and are extremely keen to maintain an active cultural and spiritual link with India. At the same time, the community now has a number of retired persons with the time, inclination and resources to devote themselves to the protection and propagation of the cultural and religious heritage of the community. This urge, and consequently the linkage, is declining somewhat with the succeeding generations. For the second and third generations a great deal of cultural hybridization has inevitably been taking place. The priorities of the second generation are quite different from the first since they tend to be better-integrated in the mainstream British community and often retain only a peripheral interest in India. Usage of Indian languages is also declining amongst the second and third generations. First generation visits to India are almost annual, subject to their financial status, while the succeeding generations tend to limit their visits to important family occasions or tourism. Community leaders are well informed about developments in India. Some of them are in close and frequent contact with political, religious and cultural personalities in India.
- 10.24. It is unfortunate that despite their significant contribution to their country of adoption, the PIOs continue to be apprehensive of their rights and security. This is evident also in other West European countries. There are strong democratic institutions and legal frameworks in Western countries, which guard against racial discrimination and harassment. Unfortunately, particularly in times of economic crisis, ethnic minorities continue to be attacked by extremely right wing groups. Following the recent terrorist attacks in the US, members of the Indian community in Britain were also

threatened or abused in several cases. Professor Bhiku Parekh, a reputed PIO political theorist, has lamented the insecurity felt among the PIOs and appealed to the general population not to treat them as “step-citizens, bearing the burdens of equal citizenship without enjoying equal rights and opportunities”.

Charities and Philanthropy of the Indian Community

10.25. Most of the Indian community associations are registered as charities. Many of them take grants from their local boroughs. Almost all wealthy PIOs have individual trusts or charities for projects pertaining to health, education or other infrastructure in their home states and villages in India. Many senior doctors run eye camps in India in their villages. Local charity activities mainly cater to the Asian community, for example in the form of senior citizen centres. In times of national crises, natural calamities in India, the community organisations and associations raise generous contributions for relief and rehabilitation of the victims.

Economic Profile

10.26. The Indian community with a per capita income of 15,860 Pounds per year is among the highest earning groups in the UK. Its per capita income is higher than the national average, according to a 1998 study by the Institute for Social and Economic Research of Essex University.

10.27. The community has attained considerable economic prosperity and plays a crucial role in key sectors. It has diverse interests in almost all spheres of commercial and industrial activities. These include steel, engineering, manufacturing, finance, hotels, pharmaceuticals, IT, media, travel, trading (including cash and carry), catering, fashion, consultancy, etc.

10.28. The Indian community accounts for 40% of the retail sector. It is also estimated that a significant percentage of hospital doctors, general practitioners and consultants are from the community. The National Health Service is greatly dependent on the services of doctors from India. The rate of unemployment amongst Indian emigrants is considerably lower than that of other emigrant communities. This is attributed in part to the higher skill levels of Indian emigrants, especially those who have gone to the UK in recent years. Equally important, the Indians who came from East Africa in the 1970s were known for their entrepreneurial abilities and high savings rate. Their presence in several sectors of the economy helped in creating a useful base for absorbing new immigrants, thereby creating productive opportunities and keeping unemployment rates low.

10.29. The PIOs dominate the ‘cash and carry’ stores and retail trade. They are mostly in small and medium business. Owing to this success, till the 80s the Indian community was mostly perceived as a sub-nation of corner shop-wallas, specializing in vending sweets, newspapers, cigarettes and bread. But several of them have risen to public prominence, after figuring in the Queen’s honours list. Prominent examples of this kind are, Baron Bagri of Regent’s Park and Baron Desai of St.

Clement Danes. They are becoming a part of Britain's new aristocracy in the making. Lord Tarsem King, one of the five Indian peers in the House of Lords, felt that acquiring this position was a pointer to the future of the marginalised Indian community. Similarly a 21 year old multi-millionaire Reuben Singh, perceives himself as a role model of British Indian teenagers and feels that if his portrait can hang in the National Gallery, it is proof that Indians can make it to the top. The North London based and the world's best known metal magnate, Lakshmi Mittal, is among the richest half a dozen persons in the UK. He heads a continuously growing list of what is jokingly called the 'coolie millionaires'. It includes Shrichand and Gopichand Hinduja (oil, banking and telecom interests), Lord Paul (Caparo Group), hotelier Jasminder Singh, brewer and sugar king Manubhai Madhavani and electronics giant Gulu Lalvani to name just a few. Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen was the first Indian to become Master of an Oxbridge college

- 10.30. From being stereotyped as a land of snake charmers, saints and fakirs, India now appears to the Western world as a computer-savvy, intelligent and dynamic nation. A century ago, India was the land from where Western countries would get factory workers and farm labourers. Today, the fourth generation Indians have invaded virtually all fields of repute and expertise. There are approximately 300 important NRI businessmen today and approximately 150 prominent and rich Indians (NRIs and PIOs) in the UK. They have a significant business presence across diverse sectors of manufacturing and services, both as owner-entrepreneurs and as professionals. They are already playing a significant role in bilateral trade with India and indeed in UK's global trade with the rest of the world. The close of the 20th century took Indians from one end of the stereotype to the other. However, some of the achievers feel that the glass ceiling has only cracked and has yet to be fully removed to enable the full flowering of the talent of the Indian community and its optimal contribution to its host country.
- 10.31. Unlike the Diaspora in the US, the PIOs in the UK do not have the same economic and political strength although there is considerable leverage that could contribute to closer economic and political bilateral links with the UK. The presence of the Indian community in the UK's civil services has not kept pace with the community's overall economic profile. Although the numbers have risen somewhat over the last few years, in part due to the Government's special efforts to recruit from ethnic minorities, there are still very few representatives of the Indian community at the higher echelons of the civil services.
- 10.32. India has now emerged as a leading investor in the UK, with most of the 125 Indian companies having set themselves up in and around London. Indian companies have invested over 250 million Pounds in the UK, and have created several hundred jobs in this country. Indian FDI into the UK for the last five years is roughly equal to the UK FDI into India. These investments are not restricted to the IT sector, but include major acquisitions in the area of steel and tea.
- 10.33. Almost all of the 50 Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the UK incorporate 'Asian' units or chapters within them, which cover India and are generally manned by Indian-origin professionals.

Besides them, some of the prominent community organisations also play a role in disseminating business information and are involved in business promotion.

- 10.34. There are at least 15 prominent PIO commercial organisations in Britain, such as Indian Development Group (UK) Ltd, Indian Development Fund, Confederation of Indian Organizations, Indian Forum for Business, India Group at the London Business Schools etc.
- 10.35. The PIOs have strong affinity and links with India. Though decisions to trade with a country or company are not taken on emotional considerations but on realistic, economic ones, the PIOs knowledge of the home country and its culture as well as their family links are generally considered as an advantage and attraction. Given the significant proportion of the Indian community in the population of the UK and their contribution to the UK, there is important potential for the Indian Diaspora to contribute to India's trade and bilateral relations with the UK.

Political Profile

- 10.36. Owing to the century-old tradition of participation in the political processes in the UK, the Indian community in Britain has made its presence felt in the political arena in the country. The increase in its numbers, accretion in economic strength, attainment of higher educational levels and enhancement in social status are being gradually reflected in the increasing political visibility of the community in the UK. It has four elected Members of Parliament. There are 11 members in the House of Lords. In a significant development, Lord Dholakia has taken over as the Chairman of the Liberal Democrat Party. This is the first time that a person of Indian origin has taken over the top post in a national party in the UK. There are also three Members of the European Parliament from the UK.
- 10.37. At the next level of political participation, there are over 250-300 Councillors of Indian Origin scattered all over the UK. Their group has now grown large enough for them to form a group called "British-Indian Councillors Association" (BICA). About a dozen Indian Mayors of different Councils have also been elected in recent years. Traditionally, Indians have been supporters of the Labour Party and, till recently, over 65 % of the Indian population was estimated to be voting in favour of Labour. However, the Conservatives have also been making concerted efforts to woo the Indian voters, and the appointment of Lord Dholakia as Chairman of the Liberal Democrats may boost their ability to target the Indian vote.
- 10.38. Out of the three major political parties in Britain, two i.e. the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrat Party have formed Friends of India parliamentary groups. The Conservatives have also announced that they would soon launch such a group. Apart from these Friendship Groups in the political parties, there is also a British-Indian Parliamentary Association which cuts across party lines and consists of members of the British Parliamentary Association, which is known as the "Curry Club" and meets regularly to discuss matters of topical interest and to promote India's concerns.

10.39. Indian community leaders have displayed considerable interest in promoting bilateral relations. They have lent significant support to efforts to form pro-India lobby groups in the three major political parties. Lord Swaraj Paul heads the British delegation for the Indo-British Round Table, a non-official initiative launched during the visit of Honourable Robin Cook to India earlier this year. Prominent members of the Indian community have been assisting officials of the Indian High Commission whenever necessary in their efforts to lobby political opinion makers.

Media

10.40. A number of persons from the Indian community occupy important positions in the mainstream British media, including organisations like the BBC, The Daily Telegraph, The Financial Times, etc. Their presence in these organisations contributes to a better understanding of India and a more balanced projection of issues of concern to India.

10.41. The ethnic Indian media has a strong and powerful presence throughout the country. The Indian community runs a number of ethnic TV channels, radio stations, newspapers and magazines. There are 9 prominent ethnic publication, namely, India Weekly, Gujarat Samachar, Garavi Gujarat, Asian Trader, Amar Deep, India Home & Abroad, Southall Gazette, New World, Asian Affairs. There are also 11 ethnic Indian radio/TV channels, namely-Sunrise Radio, Sunrise Radio Yorkshire, Zee TV, Asia 1 TV, Sony TV, Sabras Radio, Radio XL, APNA TV, NAMASTE TV, Supa AM, MP Media Services. All of them tend to focus primarily on news and events related to the Indian subcontinent and help the community to remain in touch with India. In addition, the community now receives news and entertainment programmes directly from India through TV channels such as Zee, Star TV, Sony and B4U. The growing availability of newspapers on the Internet is another important new development for keeping the Diaspora connected with India. Several PIOs have attained prominence in literature, the most recent example of this kind being that of Sir V. S. Naipaul who recently won the Nobel Prize. The contribution of these individuals in media, literature and cinema is increasingly recognised in mainstream British society.

Demands and Expectations from India

10.42. The Indian community in the UK has expressed the following needs, grievances and demands from India to the High Level Committee:-

- (a) Grant of dual nationality. Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have allowed dual nationality to their people in the UK. It is the perception of PIOs that dual nationality would have a positive influence especially on the second and third generation of Indians settled abroad. There is among them, a keen interest in acquiring agricultural land in India.
- (b) Fees of the PIO Card be substantially reduced to make it accessible to families; purchase of agricultural land be allowed to PIO Card holders.

- (c) A single window clearance system for PIO investments in India. Removal of red tapism and corruption, both of which discourage investment.
- (d) Safety and security during their visit and stay in India and elimination of harassment at airports. They have suggested the establishment of a centre which could act as a watch dog agency for problems faced by NRIs and PIOs in India, to which NRI/PIOs could go for redressal of their problems.
- (e) Promotional linkages of the youth with India. These include increasing two-way exchanges of cultural troupes and regular interaction between the High Commission and representatives of the youth, to understand their aspirations and needs and acquaint them with the positive aspects of India. Linkages between educational institutions for exchange of students as part of a degree course; twinning of cities of India and the UK, as in the case of Sandwell and Derby with Amritsar and Kapurthala through the initiatives of local PIO political leaders.
- (f) Cells in Central and select State Governments to deal with PIO/NRI problems and systems of fast track disposal of cases .
- (g) PIOs who return to India after retirement should be made aware of their rights under the provisions of the law. A permanent body should be established to address the various problems faced by such returnee Indians.
- (h) Greater coverage by All India Radio, reflecting the needs of the PIOs.
- (i) Floating of a special lottery for overseas Indians for raising money for various charity projects in India. A committee could be set up by government to identify projects to be funded through the lottery.
- (j) PIOs and NRIs who make films on India should not be required to submit their scripts before hand as this is a time consuming procedure.
- (k) Renewal and grant of new passports should not involve cumbersome and time consuming references to departments in India. A time limit should be set by government for such responses to avoid harassment.
- (l) Redressal of problems faced by the NRIs in regard to investment, trade and industry : (a) slow and cumbersome bureaucracy; (b) infrastructural bottlenecks, viz. land, power, water, logistical connections and transport; (c) lack of reliable Indian partners; (d) quality and consistent supply of goods; and (e) multiplicity of agencies.
- (m) As regards problems faced by NRIs and PIOs in the UK the following are of significance :-
 1. Expectation among the first generation particularly, that the Indian government should in some manner continue to exert its influence to protect the interests of the Indian community in view of threats of racial violence and discrimination.

2. Measures to check illegal immigration into the UK. The High Commission has assisted the UK authorities in deporting four to six hundred Indian nationals per year in the last few years.
3. Measure to address the problem of educational degrees. Students going from India to the UK on completion of their high school education (10+2) find it difficult to equate their eligibility for entrance into British universities with the appropriate level of their education (e.g. in English, Maths and Chemistry). Similarly, those who go back from the UK on completing their GCSE examinations find it difficult to equate their qualification with exams in India and enter into their right classes.

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