CIRCULAR

Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) of all countries (except those holding Citizenship of Bangladesh and Pakistan or whoever held the Citizenship of either of these two countries), who were Citizens of India or were eligible to become Citizens of India on 26th January 1950, or any time thereafter, or belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15th August 1947, are eligible to register themselves as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

A registered OCI is issued an OCI Registration Certificate and a Universal Visa is affixed to his / her foreign passport by virtue of which he / she can travel to India any time, for any purpose and for any length of stay. Consequently, he /she can permanently live in India and the Indian address featuring on the OCI Card can be accepted as proof of residence for issue of Driving Licence, Gas Connection, etc, unlike in the case of resident Indians for whom the ration card, election card etc, form the basis of proof of identity and residence.

Although detailed instructions in this regard have been issued with the approval of the Government vide Circular No. COMM/NRI/169/2010-11 dated 7th March 2011, quite often complaints are received from PIOs that some of the statutory Government authorities insist upon Ration Card and Election Card as documents in proof of identity and proof of residence, which obviously the PIOs are not expected to possess, for such services as registration of vehicle, issue of driving licence and release of gas connection, etc.

In this context, the Government of India, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has spelt out the documents that are accepted as proof of identity and proof of residence for different categories of individuals. In so far as Foreign Citizens holding PIOs / OCIs contd....2
located in India are concerned, the following documents would suffice as proof of identity and proof of residence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proof of Identity</th>
<th>Proof of Residence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copy of Passport</td>
<td>Copy of Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of PIO / OCI Card</td>
<td>Copy of Bank account statement in country of residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copy of NRE bank account statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copy of PIO / OCI Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residential permit issued by the State Police (applicable to PIO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration Certificate issued by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) (applicable to PIO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copy of visa application and visa granted with copy of appointment letter and Certificate of Indian address issued by employer and copy of employer's Pan Card (applicable to PIO)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Heads of Departments / Offices may bring the contents of this Circular to the notice of their Sub-ordinate Offices and staff and all the concerned authorities / agencies for guidance.

(Goncalo Koyu)
Secretary NRI

Copy to:

2. All Secretaries to Government of Goa, Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa
3. Secretary to Governor, Raj Bhavan, Dona Paula
4. Secretary to C. M. Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa
5. Secretary, Goa Legislature Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa.
6. All Heads of Department / Offices.
7. All Departments in the Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa.
8. All O.S.D's to C. M / Speaker / Ministers, Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa.
9. The Registrar, Goa University, Talegaon Plateau.
10. The Collector and District Magistrate, North Goa, Panaji / South Goa Margao for circulation amongst SDMs and First Class Magistrates under their respective jurisdiction.
11. The Director of Municipal Administration for circulation amongst CCP and all the Municipal Councils.
12. The Director of Panchayats, Panaji – Goa for circulation amongst Zilla Panchayats and Village Panchayats.
13. The Director of Information and Publicity for wide publicity through print and electronic media.
14. Guard file
15. O/c
Circular

The Government of India has granted Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Status to Persons of Indian Origin of all countries (except those holding Citizenship of Bangladesh and Pakistan or who ever held the Citizenship of either of these two countries), under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 (Central Act 57 of 1955) as amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005 (Central Act 32 of 2005).

The Government of India has also specified from time to time various rights, benefits and concessions granted to OCI Cardholders, which were duly spelt out in Circulars dated 07th March 2011 and 7th June 2011 forwarded by this office to all concerned. Subsequently, by Notification issued on 23rd March 2012, the Government of India, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has specified that Registration booklets of OCIs should be treated as their identification for any services rendered to them, and in case proof of residence is required, the OCI Cardholders may be advised to give an affidavit attested by a Notary public stating that a particular / specific address may be treated as their place of residence in India, and they may also in the affidavit give their Overseas Residential address as well as email address, if any.

The Heads of Departments / Offices are advised to take note of the above instructions for compliance, so also ensure that the same are brought to the notice of their sub-ordinate offices and staff for compliance.

Copy to:
1. Hon. Commissioner for NRI Affairs, Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa
2. All Secretaries to Government of Goa, Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa
3. Secretary to Governor, Raj Bhavan, Dona Paula
4. Secretary to C. M. Secretariat, Porvorim
5. Secretary, Goa Legislature Secretariat, Porvorim
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(P. Mathew Samuel) 12/9/12
Secretary (NRI)