

Shri S. Krishna Kumar

Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Subject: Contents of Information Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians (OI)

Ref : Letter to Chief Secretaries from Secretary MOIA (25/10/2005) No. OI-18013/02/2005-MS.I

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern over the contents of the '**Information Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians**' which you have sent to the chief secretaries of different states. While I appreciate your initiative to help the citizens understand the various problems that may happen in 'overseas marriage', I must say that the issues raised in the booklet are totally one sided views (wife's side views). All the 10 examples of 'typical incidents' the booklet cites suggests that the overseas Indian groom and his family members are cruel, arrogant and fraud. Further, it suggests that the OI husband's family is solely responsible for failed/failing overseas marriages.

Every 'overseas marriage' has similar problems as in an Indian marriage (Indian marriage here refers to couples married and living in India). 'Overseas Marriage' has additional caveats due to immigration/visa issues. Indian government, NCW and other women organizations cannot say that mostly 'husband's family' is responsible for "sufferings of women who are the victims of marriage to Overseas Indians". If any of the above organization has cited the statistics to support their findings, it must be present on MOIA's site (with it's source) for people to download and comment. Is Indian government trying to suggest that OI's are female beaters, female abusers and do not have respect for their marriage and their wife?

I have seen umpteen cases here in the United States where in a tensed relationship wife goes back to India and files a '**false dowry harassment charges**' and '**misuses IPC 498a**' on the husband's family. There are cases where a wife wants to support her family in India by sending them part of husband's earning and when husband objects to that, problems start in their marital life. There are cases where marriage turns sour when wife tries to control husband's life in various ways. The list of marital problems in endless and it is common in 'overseas marriage' and 'regular Indian marriage'.

Media both in the US and India has reported numerous cases in past few years where wife who married to OI male falsely accused her husband and his family of various crimes (including domestic violence). After long litigations, which drain time, money and energy, husband's family was proved innocent .

**The booklet must provide details and directions for both men (including OI's) and women about how they can protect their own rights before, during and after marriage both in India as well as overseas.** I would also like to know the names of the NGOs, law agencies and addresses of the people who helped MOIA prepare this draft, so I can contact them and discuss the details of their and my findings.

I would like the **booklet to help all the Indian citizens irrespective of their gender and location.** If I could be of more help you in drafting a more balanced and informative booklet, please let me know, I would be more than happy in assisting you in this worthy cause.

I believe you will consider these views and facts before finalizing the contents.

With best Regards,

Satya Kumar (San Jose, CA, United States)

Cc: **Indian Ambassador to USA, Consul General of India, San Francisco, President of India, Prime Minister's office**