



Global Organization of People of Indian Origin
GOPIO International
P.O. Box 1413, Stamford, CT 06904-1413, USA
Tel: 203-329-8010
E-mail: gopio@optonline.net : www.gopio.net

January 20, 2017

Hon. Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
New Delhi, India

Subject: Request to treat Diaspora Indians with Foreign citizenship, PIO and OCI card holders as NRIs for depositing old Rs 500 and Rs 1000 Notes

Hon. Prime Minister:

Global Organization of People Indian Origin (GOPIO) fully supports demonetization of the higher end Indian currencies so as to curtail black money and terrorism funding.

However, Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) requests that: 1

1. Diaspora Indians with Foreign Citizenship, and PIO and OCI card holders be given the same opportunity for depositing old and obsolete currency notes as given to NRIs (Indian Passport holders), allowing them to deposit up to Rs. 250,000 of Indian currency in the Reserve Bank of India instead of notified amount of Rs. 25,000;
2. some of the NRIs, and PIO and OCI card holders have old currency notes safely kept in their residences in India for reasons such as education of their children in India, supporting old age parents, helping family members, etc., so allow RBI and Banks having NRO accounts to accept the old currency notes up to Rs. 2,50,000;

3. (as it may not be practical on account of job situation or other reasons), Diaspora Indians with Foreign Citizenship, and PIO and OCI card holders are not able to visit India and hence be permitted to deposit in their bank account in India through an authorized agent, the amount certified by the foreign branches of State Bank of India or Indian Missions in the country of their residence or in RBI / NRO accounts with various banks in India.

Finally, since all Diaspora Indians with Foreign Citizenship, PIO and OCI card holders may not be able to visit India prior to June 30, 2017, they should be allowed to deposit old currency notes at either the Reserve Bank of India/NRO Accounts maintained with various banks in India up to December 31, 2017.

Sir, you have repeatedly acknowledged the role of NRIs/PIOs and expatriates in the resurgence of India and their record annual remittances to India which is the highest compared to any country in the world. We urge you to agree to the requested concession for goodwill of thirty million NRIs and PIOs and amend the Notification # RBI/2016-17/2005/DCM/(Plg) No 2170/10.27.00/2016-17 dated 31st December, 2016

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Abraham,
Chairman

Niraj Baxi,
President

Noel Lal,
Executive VP

Ram Gadhavi,
Vice President

Inder Singh,
Executive Trustee

Sunny Kulathakal,
Global Ambassador

Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), Inc.