

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-338
ANSWERED ON-03/02/2023

DIFFICULTIES IN VISA APPOINTMENTS

338. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that students are facing difficulties in obtaining visas for higher education to the United States due to unavailability of appointments and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that such students are losing their admissions in prestigious universities due to unavailability of visa appointments;
- (c) whether the Ministry has a portal or mechanism in place that the students can contact in case they face difficulties in obtaining an appointment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Ministry has taken up the issue of difficulty in obtaining visas for higher education overseas with the US Government; and
- (f) if so, the details of steps being taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to f) The Ministry is aware of challenges faced by Indian students for obtaining visas for USA in the last two years, particularly in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The matter has been taken up at high levels with the U.S. Government, including at Ministerial meetings.

Grant of visa is the sovereign decision and prerogative of a foreign government, acting through their Missions, based on their procedures.
