

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5764
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
STRENGTHENING INDIAN MISSION IN GULF
K. FRANCIS GEORGE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the workload of Indian Missions in Arabian Gulf has increased manifold;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to strengthen these Missions with sufficient staff and other facilities;
- (c) whether the Government propose to open an additional consulate in Dammam considering the heavy workload in the Indian Embassy at Riyadh and consular office at Jeddah; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Workload on our missions in the Gulf has increased over the years commensurate with increase in the strength of the Indian community working there, enhancement of bilateral trade, services and a greater measure of political contacts.

Staff strength in all our Missions abroad remain under constant review; it is evaluated professionally.

(c) & (d) The Government of Saudi Arabia has not yet consented to the opening of our Consulate in Dammam. However, our Mission in Riyadh sends consular teams, every week, to Dammam to provide passport and other consular services to the Indian community in the area..