

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1010

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

U.K VISA BOND PROPOSAL

ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;K. MURALEEDHARAN;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;RAMSHETH THAKUR;SUDARSANA E.M.  
NATCHIAPPAN;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Britain moots 10,000 pounds threat to prevent visitors from other States` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 31.1.2000 and news item captioned `India may retaliate to UK visa bond proposal` appearing in Hindustan Times dated 1.2.2000;

(b) If so, whether the government have lodged their protest against the proposal and taken up the matter with British authorities for further clarification;

(c) Whether the Government have discussed this matter with British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs during his recent visit to India;

(d) If so, the response of the British government thereto;

(e) Whether the Government proposes to take reciprocal action against UK visa bond proposal;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and (g) The further steps being taken by Government to save the Indian people from such harassment?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

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(b) and (c) The Government have taken up this matter with the British Government and also with Mr. Keith Vaz, the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who visited India from 31 January - 5 February 2000.

(d) The British Government have stated that the proposal is still under consideration. It has not taken a decision about the location for implementing the pilot Financial Bond Project. Indians can continue to apply for British visas with the usual documents, as per the prevailing rules of British visa services.

(e) to (g) The Government reserves the right to take reciprocal action in the event that such rules and guidelines are changed for issue of visas to Indians by the British Government.