

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6483
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
DEMAND OF IT PROFESSIONALS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether the Government are aware about the annual demand of India IT professionals in Australia, US, UK, E U and other developed countries;
- (b) if so, the number of IT professionals joining the job market alongwith the annual demand for such professionals within the country and the number of such professionals remaining unemployed;
- (c) whether the Government have evolved any strategy for export of services of such professionals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the WTO regulations under the General Agreement on Trade Services (GATS) on movement of and modes of supply of manpower present any hurdles in movement and supply of such manpower abroad; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken or being taken by the Government to obviate such problems?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a): The Task Force on HRD in IT in its Interim Report has indicated the international demand for IT professionals as 20% of overall manpower requirements in the country.

(b): As per a National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Survey, the number of IT software and services professionals employed by the end of FY2001-02 were 5,22,250 and the number has increased to 6,50,000 by the end of 2002. The demand for professionals will be approximately 1.1 million people by the year 2008.

(c) and (d): Department of Information Technology is working with NASSCOM and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) on a proposal for Facilitation Centre to help IT professionals get guidance on appropriate visa/work permit requirements in various countries.

Department of Information Technology and software industry represented through its associations like NASSCOM and ESC, are working together for market development campaign including Road Shows, advertisements, participation in international exhibitions & conferences, market potential assessment studies, one-to-one meetings etc., with emphasis on demonstrating creative and well thought out ideas, building India brand image and building alliances.

(e) and (f): No Sir. The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) encourages liberalization and transparency in rules and regulations associated with all the four modes of services including the manpower supply.

Through the process of Trade Policy reviews, GATS also gives an opportunity to negotiate with the trading partners any kind of barriers being faced by the industry.