

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:95
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
REDUCTION OF H-1B VISA
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the USA has limited issue of H-1B visa to a maximum of 65000;
- (b) if so, whether the above said reduction is likely to affect the employment opportunities in the country;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have assessed the impact thereof on job market; and
- (d) if so, the facts in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a): Yes, Sir. The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 progressively increased the H-1B quota for U.S. fiscal years 1999 to 2003. According to that Act, the annual quota was to revert from 195,000 in U.S. fiscal year 2003 to the original level of 65,000 from U.S. fiscal year 2004.

(b) to (d): The annual ceiling of H-1B visas in the United States is one of the several factors that have a bearing on the India's Information Technology industry. Improved digital connectivity, technological and economic competitiveness of Indian firms, continuing access to the U.S.A. and other international markets, and growth in domestic demand, is expected to sustain the rapid growth of the Indian Information Technology industry and employment therein.