

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1216  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003  
RELAXING CONDITIONS FOR INDIANS BY UK  
CHADA SURESH REDDY

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

- (a) Whether Britain has relaxed conditions for Indian skilled Personnel intending to go there;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether this will facilitate more and more persons going to that country from India for employment there; and
- (d) If so, the details in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH]

(a) & (b) The British Government has introduced Highly Skilled Migrant Programme [HSMP] for all nationalities on 20th January 2002. According to this programme highly skilled persons could enter UK without having a prior offer of employment for a year. The aim of the programme is to provide an individual route for highly skilled people, required by United Kingdom to enable it to compete in the global economy.

(c) & (d) As HSMP is a points based immigration scheme, it could be availed of by any highly skilled person. The British Home Office in a press release on 31st October 2003 stated that 3721 immigrants have successfully entered UK under this programme. Indians are reported to be the largest single category of applicants availing this programme.