

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2226  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003  
WIVES OF DIPLOMATS TAKING UP JOBS ABROAD  
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN

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

- (a) whether the wives of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Foreign Countries are taking up jobs there;
- (b) if so, whether there are rules barring this;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard during each of the last three years?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes. The Ministry of External Affairs issued revised guidelines for remunerative employment of spouses of India-based personnel posted in Indian Missions/Posts abroad in December 2001, allowing spouses of Heads of Missions (HOMs)/ Heads of Posts (HOPs) to take up jobs abroad, subject to certain conditions and within the framework of broad guidelines.

The employment of spouses of HOMs/HOPs must be referred to Ministry for approval. The HOMs/HOPs should keep in mind while forwarding such proposals, that such employment would not impact individually on national pride and repute, would be in conformity with the dignity and status of the office of Ambassador/High Commissioner and the remuneration to be paid to the spouse would not be excessive. Ministry has also drawn up list of permissible areas where spouses of HOMs/HOPs can take up employment, and also specified fields in which such employment shall not be permitted.

(d) Does not arise.