

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:38

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

COMPANY OF PROMOTE INDIAN INTERESTS IN US

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has engaged a company/lobbyist firm who will liaise with the US authorities on issues important from India`s point of view;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the criteria and reasons for the selection of such company; and
- (d) the extent to which India is likely to be benefited by the work of the such company/firm?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a)-(b) Government has engaged M/s Barbour, Griffith & Rogers, LLC and Venable LLP respectively as lobbyist firms for: securing the active support of the U.S. Government, Congress and public opinion for a strong bilateral relationship by projecting India`s priorities, policies and viewpoints on issues of global importance like nonproliferation, human rights etc. and disseminating India`s economic and political developments and achievements, expanding the areas of convergence between the two countries, and

monitoring, analyzing and advising on various legislative measures in the U.S. Congress for their implications on India`s interests.

(c) These firms are chosen after careful study of the available options with the focus on the previous track record of the firms and their potential effectiveness with respect to our particular requirements.

(d) Given the steady progress in relations between India and the US in recent times, the engagement of these firms would be of substantial benefit in taking the relationship to a sustained strategic partnership level.