

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:602

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

VISA TO SECURITY PERSONNEL

Mohan Shri P. C.;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the Government of Canada refused to grant visa to ex-constable of Border Security Force;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the Canadian Government; and
- (d) if so, the response received by the Government from them in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) Yes.

(b) In May 2010, this Ministry was informed about the rejection of Permanent Residency application of a Head Constable of Border Security Forces (BSF) (Mr. Fateh Singh Pandher) who had applied for a visa at the Canadian High Commission, New Delhi to visit his daughter, settled in Canada. The Canadian Mission rejected his application on the basis of the applicant's service in the Border Security Force of India.

(c) Yes.

(d) On May 28, 2010, Canadian Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Naturalization Mr. Jason Kenney made a statement conveying Govt. of Canada's deep regret for the incident and its highest regard for India, its Government institutions and processes. Following this, Canadian Govt. has informed that they have undertaken a review of their procedures and policies under which such visa applications from members of the Armed Forces, Intelligence agencies and related organizations are processed.