

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:391

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

H B VISA

Balram Shri P.;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal;Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the tightened policy in granting H1-B work visas is likely to reduce the flow of India's investments and export of manpower to the US;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve this issue with the US Government?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No. There is no change in annual quota of H1B visas earmarked for Indian nationals.

(c) Government of India has conveyed its concerns over the protectionist sentiment in the US and on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill which aims to raise \$ 600 million for augmenting US Border Security by hiking fee for H1B and L category visas passed recently in the US Congress, which could have an adverse impact on Indian industry. The United States Government is committed, including in the context of G-20, to resist protectionism in all its forms.