

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:395

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

BAN ON OUTSOURCING AND HIKE IN VISA FEES

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the issue of the USA Government's proposal for ban on outsourcing business to India figured in the talks with US Secretary of States during Indian External Affairs Minister's visit to USA recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the response of the US Government on the issue;
- (c) whether the issue of the abnormal hike in the fees for visa by US Government has also figured in the talks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and response of the US Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to raise these issues with US President during his visit to India;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (
- g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) Government of India has conveyed its concerns over the protectionist sentiment in the US and on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010 which aims to raise \$ 600 million for augmenting US Border Security by hiking fee for H1B and L category visas, 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.