

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:954
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010
INCREASE IN VISA FEE
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether increase in visa fee is estimated to put an additional burden of \$ 200 million annually on Indian IT firms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to correct the situation in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) The US Congress has approved a \$ 600 million emergency funding package to improve security along the US-Mexico border on August 12, 2010 and the bill S-3271 has been signed into law [HR 6080] on August 13, 2010. The law has increased the fee for an H-1B and L-1 visa by \$2000 and \$2250 respectively for companies that employ 50 or more employees in the United States if more than 50% of the companies' employees are on H-1B or L-1 visa, till September 30, 2014. Trade bodies and chambers of commerce of the IT-BPO industries in India have expressed concerns about the financial impact of the law. India's concerns on the issue have been taken up with the US side in the India US Trade Policy Forum and other bilateral engagements.