

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4599
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
VISA NORMS FOR SPOUSES
Tharoor Shri Shashi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreigner spouses of Indian citizens working in international companies in the country find it difficult to obtain work permits;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the current regulation require that spouses wishing to take-up any employment in the country have to return to the country of their origin and obtain a requisite employment visa;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (e) whether such visa stipulations are causing hardships to women with foreign citizenship and Indian spouse to work in the country;
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to allow foreign spouses of Indian citizens on inter company transfers to change their visa status by applying to the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices in India and by providing work rights in line with the regulations governing similar conditions in other countries; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

- (a) to (f): There is no concept of grant of work permit to foreign nationals employed in India. As per extant instructions, all foreign nationals desirous of taking up employment in India are required to come on an Employment Visa which is granted subject to the fulfillment of various conditions stipulated. Foreign nationals who are spouses of Indian citizens can also apply for a Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Card if they are eligible for the same and on obtaining the PIO Card, they can take up employment.
- (g) & (h): A proposal received in this regard is under examination.