

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2875
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
VISA FEE FOR SKILLED WORKERS
Joshi Dr. Murlī Manohar

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether America has recently formulated a Health-care Act with the purpose of charging a higher amount as visa fees from skilled workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether skilled workers from India would have to pay an additional amount as a result thereof;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the average additional amount of funds estimated to be paid by skilled workers of the country annually as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The United States has enacted the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act in August 2010 to raise \$600 million for augmenting US Border Security by hiking the fee applicable to H1B and L Category visas until 2014. This would apply to those companies, which have more than 50 employees and 50% of these are on H1B/L visas. In a legislation enacted in December 2010 termed 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, the period of enhanced fee on H1B and L visa categories has been further extended by a year to 2015.
- (c) to (e) The US legislation has raised the fee for H1B and L1 visa from USD 500 to USD 2500 for H1B visa and to USD 2750 for L visa. This provision, while not country specific, would affect Indian skilled workers also.