

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3554
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011
RESTRICTIONS IN GRANT OF VISA
Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed;Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of U.K. is coming out with new legislation to introduce more restrictions for granting visas to the Non-European Union citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the U.K. Government; and
- (d) if so, the details of the response of the Government of U.K.?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) The UK Government announced a set of measures on 23rd November 2010 that would regulate the entry of workers and students from non-European countries, including India. These measures came into force from April 2011.

The measures place restrictions on the entry into UK of non-European nationals. Numerical caps have been introduced in Tier I (1,000) and Tier II (20,700) categories. Tier I is now restricted to entrepreneurs, investors and people of exceptional talent. Tier II covers most skilled workers coming for graduate level jobs. Movement related to intra-company transfers (ICT) would be restricted by raising the standards, lowering the numbers by placing a new annual salary threshold of Â£40,000 for those coming for periods longer than 12 months. As to students, the new system includes restrictions on post study work (PSW).

(c) & (d) India's concerns regarding the changed legislation have been taken up with the British Government from time to time including during the Foreign Office Consultations held in London in June this year. The Government will continue to pursue this issue.