

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2081  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011  
HIKE IN VISA FEE .  
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether US has increased the fee for some categories of visa mainly used by the Indian IT professionals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the matter has been taken up with the US authorities; and
- (d) if so, the response thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) 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. 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) & (d) The Government of India has repeatedly conveyed its concerns to the United States Government over such protectionist legislative measures. External Affairs Minister had also raised this issue with the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the Indo-US Strategic Dialogue held in New Delhi on 19 July 2011. As agreed by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the US President Barack Obama in November 2010 in New Delhi, the two sides remain committed to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travelers between their countries to enhance their economic and technological partnership.