

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1369

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012

US F1 & H1B VISAS

Choudhry Smt. Shruti; Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ; Mitra Shri Somendra Nath; Ponnamm Shri Prabhakar; Sudhakaran Shri K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the H1B work visas have increased during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the United States has discriminated against Indians in granting professional visas and granted less number of L-1 visas to Indians;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether US has proposed to change F-1 and H-1B visas to simplify the process; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Indian professionals are likely to be benefitted as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) According to the Press Release issued by the United States Embassy in New Delhi on 25 October, 2011, the issuances of H-1B visa in India increased by 24% in US fiscal 2011 (ending on September 30, 2011), with 67,195 H-1B visas issued in 2011 in comparison to 54,111 visas issued in US fiscal 2010. The total include visas issued to individual professionals from different fields, Indian IT companies and India-based U.S. companies. According to NASSCOM, Indian IT companies account for about 25-30% of total H1B visas issued in India.

(c) & (d) According to the study by the National Foundation for American Policy of November 2011, the L-1 visas issued by the U.S. to Indians declined by 28% in U.S. fiscal 2011, while L1 visas issued globally (except India) increased by 15%. The United States issued 25,898 L-1 visas to Indians in 2011 while 35,896 L-1 visas were issued in 2010.

(e) The Government is not aware of any U.S. proposal to simplify the process for F-1 and H-1B visas.

(f) Does not arise.