

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3288  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012  
LOBBYING BY EXTERNAL AGENCIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
M.Thambidurai Dr.

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

- (a) whether the Government has hired the services of external agencies to do `lobbying` in any country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the amount spent on such `lobbyists`, during the last two years and the current year, year-wise and country-wise;
- (c) whether it had any impact on improving the image of India among the foreign countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) Based on requirements, the Government of India has from time to time, engaged the services of firms providing strategic consultation, to support and supplement the efforts of the Indian Embassy in the United States of America to promote India's interests in its relations with the United States.

(b) Currently, two firms based in Washington D.C. are engaged by the Government - M/s B.G.R. Government Affairs, LLC and M/s Podesta Group. During the period under reference, M/s Patton Boggs LLP provided its services till 8 March 2010.

The payments made for such strategic consultations during the last two years and the current year, year- wise are as follows:

(Amounts in US Dollars)  
Year M/s B.G.R. Government Affairs LLC M/s Podesta Group M/s Patton Boggs LLP

2010 349998 - 174999

2011 641663 583330 -

2012 233332 233332

(till date)

Total 1224993 816662 174999

(c) & (d) The services of these firms have assisted Government of India in projecting India's concerns and perspectives on key bilateral and international issues and in promoting India's interests and image in the United States. They have contributed to advancing India-US strategic partnership based on a broad political consensus and bipartisan support in the United States, as reflected in the fact that India today has one of the largest country-specific support groupings - the Congressional Caucus on India - in the United States Congress.