

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5292

ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012

US POLICY

Tomar Shri Narendra Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America is not making its stand clear about the decision to be taken according to the request of the Government of India regarding heavy increase in subsidy being provided to the agriculture sector and visa fees despite its advocacy to promote foreign capital investment in the multi-brand retail sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government would ask the US to make a commitment in the said inter ests of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) India and the United States hold regular consultations, including through their bilateral economic forums, on the global economic environment, multilateral trade negotiations and mutually beneficial opportunities for further expansion in their strong and growing investment and trade ties in goods as well as services sector.

During these discussions, Government has conveyed to the United States Government its concern on the possible adverse impact of the hike in fees of H1B and L visas. These discussions also provide an opportunity to address market access issues for agricultural products in the two countries. India's economic policies, including with regard to Foreign Direct Investment in India, are guided solely by national interest and economic development goals.

As stated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Barack Obama in November 2010 in New Delhi, the two sides remain committed to take steps to reduce trade barriers and protectionist measures, encourage research and innovation, and facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travellers and to enhance their technological and economic partnership.