

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6540

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIANS IN ISSUING PROFESSIONAL VISA

Ajmal Shri Badruddin

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

- (a) whether the United States of America has discriminated against Indians in the grant of professional visas over the last four years;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the percentage of rejection was only 2.8% in 2008 and it increased to 22.5% while rejection went up for most other countries within the range of 4.1% to 5.0%;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to take up the issue with the US Government to remove this discrimination and treat Indians at par with other countries while considering issuance of visa; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the US Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Government is aware of difficulties faced by the Indian professionals in obtaining U.S. visas, including denial of visas, increase in visa fees and other procedural difficulties. A report, compiled by the National Foundation for American Policy in November 2011, states that the L-1 visas issued by the U.S. to Indians declined by 28% in U.S. fiscal 2011, while L-1 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.

(c) & (d) The Government uses every opportunity, including during trade-related meetings, to raise with the U.S. Government its concerns regarding visa difficulties faced by Indian professionals. In meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton in New Delhi on 8 May 2012, the External Affairs Minister conveyed Indian concerns about the continuing difficulties on mobility of professionals, especially for IT companies, and protectionist sentiments in the U.S. with regard to global supply chain in services industry. 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.