

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013
GREEN CARDS TO INDIAN IMMIGRANTS
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indians in the United States (US) seeking Green card;
- (b) whether the proposed immigration reforms in U.S. will help the skilled Indians as well as illegal Indian immigrants in getting Green cards;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the role played by the Indian Government in the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) As per the information available on the website of the US Citizenship & Immigration Services, as of 03 January 2013, applications of 90,762 applicants born in India are pending approval under the Employment-based I-485 Green Card category. Information on Green Card applicants for other categories is not currently available in the public domain.

(b) & (c) Several immigration reform proposals are currently under consideration in the United States, including a Bipartisan Framework on Comprehensive Immigration released on 28 January 2013; President Obama's immigration reform proposal unveiled on 29 January 2013; and the Immigration Innovation Act of 2013 introduced in the Senate on 29 January 2013.

The Bipartisan Framework on Comprehensive Immigration focuses on legalizing the 11 million illegal immigrants, strengthening of border enforcement measures and streamlining legal immigration system. President Obama's immigration reform proposal endorses key elements of the Bipartisan Framework on Comprehensive Immigration, and has specific proposals to address status of illegal immigrants and improving legal immigration. The Immigration Innovation Act of 2013 focuses on high-skilled immigration and includes proposals for increasing cap for employment-based non immigrant visas, enhancing portability of high-skilled foreign workers, recapturing unused Green Cards, and exempting certain categories, including STEM (Science Technology, Engineering or Maths) advance degree holders, from the employment-based Green Card cap.

The impact of these reforms on skilled Indians and illegal Indian immigrants in the US will be known only after the legislation on immigration reforms is finalized and adopted by the US Congress.

(d) Our Mission in Washington has engaged various stakeholders in the US on this issue.