

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:669

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

CASH BOND FOR BRITISH VISA

Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has been put on a list of high risk Asian and African countries whose citizens would be required to deposit 3,000 ponds cash bond when they apply for a British visa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the British Government; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Government have seen media reports regarding a possible introduction of a visa bond scheme by the United Kingdom (UK) Government. This issue has been raised with UK Government at different levels, including by the Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma in his meetings at high levels on June 25, 2013 during his visit to London, as well as at the India-UK Comprehensive Dialogue on Visa Related Issues held in London on July 25, 2013. It has been conveyed that no final decision has yet been taken on such a scheme.