

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3526
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
VISA FOR UNITED STATES
Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Indian professionals are facing difficulties in getting the US Visa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the US; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the US in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Government is aware of the difficulties faced by the Indian professionals in obtaining U.S. visas, including increase in visa fees, denial of visas, processing delays and other procedural difficulties. The United States enacted the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act in August 2010 to raise \$ 600 million for augmenting U.S. Border Security by, inter alia, hiking the fee applicable to H1B and L category visas until 2014. The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of December 2010 extended the period of enhanced fee on H1B and L visa categories to 2015.

(c)&(d) The Government uses every opportunity, including during trade-related meetings, to raise with the U.S. Government its concerns over the increase in visa fees and other difficulties faced by Indian companies in obtaining U.S. visas for their professionals. The U.S. Government has conveyed that the increase in visa fees was mandated by an Act of the U.S. Congress, and reiterated its commitment to take steps to facilitate the movement of professionals and enhance trade relations between the two countries.