

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4126

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

IMPACT OF VISA NORMS

Balram Shri P.;Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa;Deora Shri Milind Murli;Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has revised the norms for issuing visas recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the new visa norms are likely to affect various ongoing projects including in the power sector in the country;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations received from various sectors; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): It has come to the notice of the Government that a number of foreign nationals coming for execution of projects/contracts in India have come on Business Visa instead of the Employment Visa. The matter has, therefore, been reviewed by the Government and it has been decided that all foreign nationals coming for execution of projects/contracts in India will have to come only on an Employment Visa and that such visa will be granted only to skilled and qualified professional appointed at a senior level, skilled position such as technical expert, senior executive or in a managerial position etc. and will not be granted for jobs for which a large number of qualified Indians are available. Suitable instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Indian Missions abroad to effectively regulate Employment and Business Visa regimes and ensure that these are issued strictly as per prescribed norms.

(c) to (e): Certain difficulties have been brought to the notice of the Government and appropriate steps have been initiated to address the issues.