

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4370
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
H1-B VISA
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the tightened policy in granting H1-B work visas is likely to reduce the flow of India's investment in the US;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (c) While investment decisions by Indian companies in the US are based on a wide range of factors which are variable in nature, any tightening of policy on H1-B work visas does affect the movement of Indian professionals. Recently, the US Government has put restrictions on US Companies who have received support from the Government under the Troubled Assets Relief Programme (TARP) in hiring H1-B visa workers. It has been Government of India's constant endeavour to sensitize the US authorities about the fact that India is the largest contributor of highly skilled workers to the US economy and any protectionist policy hurts the interests of US companies the most.