

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
RIGID VISA POLICY BY UK AND USA .

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SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA

Will the Minister of COALCOALCOALCOALEXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether in the era of globalisation, India has potential of human resources but the developed countries like UK and USA and Canada have been adopting very rigid policy regarding issue of visa to Indians who intend to go abroad; and

(b) whether Government of India is taking up the matter with these countries making their visa rules easy and simple?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) Government is aware of protectionist sentiments in a number of countries with regard to cross-border movement of professionals and workers. In the United States, Indian companies could face an adverse impact from the recent increase in H1B visa fees due to the recently passed Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act. The United Kingdom has amended its immigration law to set a numerical limit on non-EU migrants to UK to bring down the number of immigrants, which could have an impact on Indian professionals going to the United Kingdom. While no new measures have been announced by Canada, it follows generally a restrictive visa policy for Indian professionals.

(b) During the visit of US President Barack Obama to India from 6-9 November 2010, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama announced their commitment to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travelers, students and exchange visitors between their countries. We have also conveyed to the UK Government that the amendments in their immigration law should not pose further hurdles for Indian nationals to enter or stay in UK. Government has also raised with Canada the need for streamlining procedures for quick and smooth processing of visa applications of Indian nationals.