

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.980**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017

**GRANTING OF H1B1 VISA BY USA**

980. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who have been granted H1B1 visas by the United States of America (USA);
- (b) the number of Indians in the information Technology (IT) industry in USA; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to protect Indians holding H1B1 visas in USA and suggest reforms to the new visa policy?

**ANSWER**  
**THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)**

(a) H1B1 visas are issued to nationals of Singapore and Chile as per their bilateral Free Trade Agreements with the US. Indian nationals are granted H-1B visas. According to data released by the U.S. Department of State, the total number of persons as well as the Indian nationals granted H-1B visas in last five years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Indians	72,438	80,630	99,705	108,817	119,952
Total	129,134	135,530	153,223	161,369	172,748

(b) The U.S. Government does not provide country-wise data on total number of IT workers.

(c) Government of India has been engaging with the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress at senior levels in regard to movement of skilled professionals, including under the H1-B visa programme. The Government has emphasized that Indian skilled professionals have contributed to the growth and development of the U.S. economy and have helped the U.S. retain its competitive edge and innovation advantage. They are a big stakeholder in India-U.S. relations and their backward linkages to India have helped U.S. businesses.

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