

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1185
ANSWERED ON- 05/12//2024

IMPACT OF RISING INDIA-CANADA TENSIONS

#1185. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI

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

- (a) the details of security arrangements made by Government for Indian diplomatic staff and citizens in view of the rising Indo-Canada tensions in recent past;
- (b) whether Indians have faced significant delays in visa applications due to the reduction in the number of Canadian diplomatic staff as a result of such a situation in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the students seeking admission in Canadian institutions are also affected by the deterioration in Indo-Canada ties, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the two countries are considering any dialogue to improve their bilateral ties?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) It is the duty of the receiving state to ensure the safety and protection of diplomatic personnel and properties of the sending state. However, in the case of Canada, there have been numerous instances wherein the security of Indian diplomatic personnel and the diplomatic premises have come under threat. In view of the growing security concerns from anti-India extremist and secessionist elements operating in Canada, Government of India has strongly raised these concerns with the Canadian authorities and has sought for enhanced security measures to protect and safeguard our diplomatic personnel and premises. The Canadian authorities, keeping in view the deteriorating security situation for Indian diplomats operating in Canada, have enhanced the security cover for our High Commission / Consulates.

The welfare, safety and security of Indian nationals who are living, working and studying in Canada remains of utmost importance to the Government of India. Issues faced by Indian nationals in Canada are brought to the attention of Canadian authorities whenever they arise, for swift redressal.

(b & c) Government of Canada's visa issuance data for Indian nationals for the years 2022 (1.36 million visas), 2023 (1.82 million visas) and for the period Jan-Jul 2024 (1.17 million visas), does not indicate any decline in the number of Indians travelling to Canada for tourism, business, work or for pursuing studies at Canadian universities. Currently, the Canadian visa processing

time for Indian nationals stands at 114 days for a visitor visa (applicable for visiting, studying and working).

As per the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) data (placed below), the Indian student intake at Canadian universities has also increased over the last three years:

Year	2021	2022	2023
Indian Students	2,16,360	3,18,380	4,27,085

(d) Respect for each other's concerns, including for India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, are the pre-requisites for a stable bilateral relationship with Canada. In this regard, Government of India has repeatedly urged the Canadian Government to take prompt and effective action against all anti-India elements operating from its soil.
