

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1044
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

INCREASING VISA FEE AND WELFARE OF EXPATRIATES

1044. SHRI P. P. SUNEER

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken note of exponential increases in visa fee/immigration fee by certain countries affecting Indians across visa categories;
- (b) whether the Ministry maintains data on such hikes;
- (c) the number of countries that have increased visa fee/immigration fee for Indians, especially for student and workers category visas in the last three years;
- (d) whether the Ministry has considered approaching such countries where visa fee hike is becoming debarring for Indians; and
- (e) whether the Ministry is considering any proposal to aid Indian students and workers abroad by paying a share of the fee?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Formulation of visa related policies, including visa fees to be charged from foreign nationals is a sovereign matter of foreign countries.
- (b & c) Such data is not regularly maintained.
- (d) Visa related matters, particularly visa policies intended to improve ease of travel for Indian citizens to foreign countries, are taken up by the Government through bilateral mechanisms, including during Consular Dialogues with foreign countries and during High level visits.
- (e) No such proposal is under consideration.
