

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th NOVEMBER, 2016

VISA ISSUE AT WTO

1931. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has filed a case at the World Trade Organisation against the United States' move for steep selective increase in short-term visa fees for professionals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which India would approach the WTO for setting up a dispute settlement panel in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण) (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) and (b): India had consultations with the United States on 11-12 May 2016 at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva under WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. India had raised claims on US measures relating to:

- i. Fees for L-1 and H-1B visas;
- ii. Numerical commitment for H-1B visas.

(c): The setting up of a dispute settlement panel in WTO involves detailed submissions on legal and factual issues. Necessary preparatory steps are underway.
