

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4167
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th DECEMBER, 2016

TEMPORARY WORK VISA FOR IT PROFESSIONALS

4167. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether India is likely to take up the IT industry's concerns regarding curbs on the non-immigrant temporary work visas as well as the absence of a bilateral social security of pact;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India hopes for fair resolution on US work visa issue; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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) & (b): Government of India has taken up the visa as well as social security issues with the United States (US) both bilaterally and in other forums from time to time to address the concerns arising out of the impact of such measures on the domestic industry particularly the Indian Information Technology (IT) industry.

Visa related issues of IT industry have been raised with the US Government at the Ministerial dialogues during the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue in August 2016 and the Trade Policy Forum in October 2016. Also, the matter on US visa fee hike has been raised by India at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva. India had consultations with the United States on 11-12 May 2016 at the 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.

India is also pursuing for bilateral Totalization Agreement with the US. In the Trade Policy Forum held in October,2016, both the countries acknowledged the ongoing discussions on totalisation and resolved to continue their engagement on the elements required in both countries in order to pursue a bilateral Totalisation Agreement.

(c) &(d): During the Trade Policy Forum held in October, 2106, India and the US decided to continue their engagement on visa issues and reiterated their resolve to facilitate the movement of professionals. India would continue the efforts with the new Government of the US under the leadership of their new President Mr. Donald Trump also.
