

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.683
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2017**

INDIAN WORKERS IN AUSTRALIA

683. SHRI Y. V. SUBBA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of skilled Indian workers working in Australia under temporary visa i.e., 457;**
- (b) whether Australia has cancelled 457 visa and replaced it with a new one;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and how the new one is different from the earlier 457 visa and to what extent the new one impacts / likely to impact skilled Indian workers;**
- (d) whether any consultations have been held with Australia either by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) or her Ministry to resolve this problem; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)**

(a) As of September, 2016, 25571 Indian nationals were working in Australia on 457 visa.

(b) & (c) Yes, on 19 April, 2017, an announcement was made that 457 visa category will be abolished in a phased manner. With effect from March 2018, it will be replaced with the 'Temporary Skills Shortage Visas' programme, providing for a short-term visa for up to two years and a medium term visas of up to four years depending on the occupation. English language proficiency requirement has also been made more stringent. This change is not India specific.

(d) & (e) The matter has been taken up with Australia at various levels including at the highest level.
