

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2446**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2018

**UN-DOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**

2446. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United States Administration has launched its zero tolerance policy towards undocumented immigrants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Indians languishing under undocumented immigrants list; and
- (c) the details of steps the Ministry is taking to ease the situation of the detainees and help them in their attempts to stay-on in the US?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) President Trump issued an Executive Order titled “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States” dated 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 which inter alia “directs agencies to employ all lawful means to ensure the faithful execution of the immigration laws of the United States against all removable aliens”. Subsequently, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued two Implementation Memorandums dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 which inter alia instructed all DHS personnel to “initiate enforcement actions against removable aliens encountered during the performance of their official duties.”

There are no authoritative figures on the number of undocumented Indian immigrants in the US. The U.S. Government does not release a comprehensive list, by nationality, of aliens detained for entering or staying in the U.S. without valid documents. From time to time, detentions of alleged Indian nationals for violation of U.S. immigration laws are reported or come to the notice of the Government. In such cases, our Embassy and Consulates in the U.S. take up the matter with appropriate authorities and render all possible assistance to the detained Indian nationals, including by visits to detention centres. From time to time, Indian Embassy and Consulates in the U.S. also facilitate issue of travel documents to undocumented Indians after due verification of nationality, to enable their return to India.

The Government does not encourage illegal migration of Indian citizens into other countries. The Government remains closely engaged with the US Government on all issues relating to safety and welfare of the Indian Diaspora.

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