

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.36**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2018

**GREEN CARD APPLICANTS**

36. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY KOTHA:  
SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there are a large number of Indian Green Card applicants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the US Government is putting restrictions on the issue of green cards to the foreign nationals and thereby Indian aspirants are facing much difficulty in getting green cards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has made any requests for relaxation of the norms for green cards on behalf of the Indian emigrants and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the response of the US Government thereon?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) According to U.S. Government Statistics, the total number of Green Cards awarded to Indian nationals in last 5 years under five categories (Employment-based; Family based; Diversity lottery; Refugees and Asylees; and Other) are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>FY2012</b>	<b>FY2013</b>	<b>FY2014</b>	<b>FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016</b>
Green cards given to Indians nationals	66,434	68,458	77,908	64,116	64,687

As per the information released by the US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), as of May 2018, there are a total of 306,601 pending Green Card applications filed by Indian nationals under the Employment-Based Preference Category. Information on Green Card applicants for other categories, including dependent family members of the primary beneficiaries of Employment-Based Preference Category, is not available in public domain.

(c) & (d) No comprehensive changes have been made by the US administration recently to the framework for issuance of green cards to foreign nationals. On 28 August 2017, USCIS announced that it would expand in-person interviews for: (i) adjustment of status applications based on employment (employment based green card applications); and (ii) petitions seeking refugee/asylum status with effect from 1 October 2017.

(e) & (f) There are several proposals reportedly under consideration in the U.S. for reforming the immigration policy including the eligibility for Green Cards. The Government of India has engaged with the U.S. Administration and the Congress on all matters relating to Indian immigrants and professionals working in the U.S..

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