

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019

OUTSOURCING OF VISA HANDLING PROCESS

1963. SHRIMATI RATHVA GITABEN VAJESINGBHAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has outsourced the visa handling process in many of its Embassies and Consulates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such outsourcing of visa handling process entails a security risk; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issues of security risks?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Visa outsourcing has been implemented in 61 Indian Missions/Posts located in 33 countries.
- (c) & (d) While front-end services including scrutiny and acceptance of visa applications, collection of visa fee and return of applicant's passport and other documents are rendered by the outsourcing service provider, the final authority for issuance of visas remains with Indian Mission/Post concerned and visas are issued as per laid down procedures and guidelines and only after thorough scrutiny, in order to avoid any security risks.
