

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3639
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2021**

H-1B VISA

3639. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the suspension of H-1B visas for Indians by an executive order passed by USA effective from June 24, 2020;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of applications submitted by Indians to obtain H-1B visa and granted since 2017 therefor;**
- (d) whether the Government has devised any counter-measures and strategies to persuade the US Administration to reconsider this measure therein; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) The U.S. Presidential Proclamation of 22 June 2020, suspended the entry of certain categories of non-immigrant visa holders and their families till 31 December 2020 (extended to 31 March 2021). This Proclamation is not specific to India or any one country.

(c) Data regarding H-1B visas issued to Indian nationals, including the share in total number of H-1B visas issued by the Government of U.S.A in 2017, 2018 and 2019 is given below:

H-1B Visas	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Issued to Indian nationals	129,097	125,528	131,549
Total H-1B visas issued	179,049	179,660	188,123
% share of visas issued to Indian nationals	72.1%	69.9%	69.9%

Source: U.S. Department of State

According to the U.S. Department of State, Indian nationals have received between 69.9 to 72.1% of the total H-1B visas issued by the Government of U.S.A between the fiscal years 2017 to 2019.

(d) & (e) Government is closely engaged with the U.S. Administration and other relevant stakeholders on issues related to the movement of Indian professionals, highlighting the importance of people-to-people linkages and the contribution of Indian skilled professionals to the growth and development of the US economy, especially in the technology and innovation sector. These issues were also raised during the India-U.S. Foreign Office Consultations held on 7 July 2020 and the 2+2 India-U.S. Ministerial Dialogue held in New Delhi on 27 October 2020.
