GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 220

FOR ANSWER ON 13/02/2026

CONFERENCE CLEARANCE SYSTEM PORTAL

*220 Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal

Shri Anil Firojiya*

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received, approved, rejected and withdrawn through the Conference Clearance System portal during the last three years;

(b) the average processing time for grant of political clearance before and after introduction of the online portal; and

(c) whether any timelines or service standards have been prescribed for disposal of applications, if so, the details and the extent of adherence thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a to c)   *A statement is laid on the Table of the House.*

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (A) TO (C) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 220 BY DR. SANJAY JAISWAL AND SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13/02/2026 REGARDING CONFERENCE CLEARANCE SYSTEM PORTAL.

(a to c) The Conference Clearance System (CCS) portal (conference.epolclearance.gov.in) is an automated, single-window web-based application developed by the Ministry of External Affairs in March 2025 to streamline the process for granting political clearance to foreign nationals to attend or participate in conferences/seminars/workshops/ sports events and other events organised in India by government or private bodies.

This digital platform has ensured a smoother and hassle-free user experience with a substantial reduction in processing time as compared to the earlier mechanism. The portal also serves the larger objective of Digital India by maximizing the number of services available on the digital platform.

The portal serves as a centralised platform where stakeholders can access all the information related to the status of an application in one place. It features an interactive dashboard that enables the Ministry to seek missing or additional information from organisers promptly, whenever required. Organisers can also monitor the status of their applications online. These features have substantially reduced the average processing time.

In general, political clearance is granted within 3-5 working days. However, the actual processing time may vary on a case-to-case basis depending on several factors including the number of invitees and the countries from which participation is expected. The portal also includes a provision for partial clearance. Under this mechanism, political clearance is granted individually as soon as complete information for a foreign delegate is received and verified. Due to this feature, the overall status of application may continue to be displayed as pending on the portal, even though the political clearance has been granted for a majority of the delegates, in some cases upto 90 percent of the total list.

A total number of 4948 applications have been received on the conference clearance system portal since its launch. The details of these applications are as under:-

Total number of applications received till 06.02.2026 1730 hrs	Cleared application	Partially cleared applications	Withdrawn applications	Cases where clearance not granted	Total number of applicants who have been granted clearance since March 2025
4948 (including 232 under process applications)	4022	435	149	110	23,594

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