



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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Q NO.1291 ROAD BLOCKS AGAINST INDIAN WORKERS IN USA

December 11, 2015

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1291
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2015

ROAD BLOCKS AGAINST INDIAN WORKERS IN USA

1291. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has seen media reports that USA Senators plan road blocks against Indian Guest workers; and
- (b) whether Government would take up with the USA Administration, the adverse effects of the Grassley-Durbin bill on hiring of Indian IT personnel from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and other States?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Government is aware of the Bill entitled "H-1B and L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2015", introduced by Senator Charles Ernest Grassley and Senator Richard Joseph Durbin in the US Senate in November 2015. The bill contains several provisions that could potentially affect the interests of H-1B and L-1 visa seekers and IT companies from India adversely. Government of India has raised its concerns with both the US Administration and members of the US Congress over the impact of such legislations.

India has been consistently taking up issues relating to H-1B and L-1 visas with the US Government at all levels from time to time. The issue was raised recently in the Ministerial India-US Trade Policy Forum, held in Washington DC on 29 October 2015 and in the bilateral Consular Dialogue held in Washington DC on 3 November 2015. As per the India and United States Joint Statement on the Trade Policy Forum issued on 29 October 2015, "The United States and India also decided to continue their engagement on visa issues, and the United States took note of India's interest in ensuring easier

access for Indian professionals in the United States.”



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