



Ministry of External Affairs

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Q.NO.385. NURSES FORCED TO LEAVE UK

July 23, 2015

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.385
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2015

NURSES FORCED TO LEAVE UK

385. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian nurses working in the UK are being forced to leave the country due to a new income threshold required under visa rules for continued stay in the UK;
- (b) if so, details of the nurses being forced to leave the UK; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken up the issue of their displacement and their children's education with the UK authorities and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The new immigration rules to delink working in the UK with indefinite leave to stay in the UK were introduced by the UK Government in 2012. The new rules will come into effect from 6 April 2016 when it will be mandatory for those applying for settlement in the UK to be in receipt of an annual income of at least £35,000. These new rules are not specifically targeted at immigrants from India but apply to all non-EEA (European Economic Area) workers. Although official data specific to Indian nurses are not available, a report of the Royal College of Nursing, London, has suggested that the new immigration rules may lead to exodus of nurses of various nationalities after completing their work in the UK.

(c) High Commission of India (HCI) London is in touch with the UK authorities to ascertain the impact of the changes in immigration rules on Indian nurses in the UK. It is actively engaged with the Indian associations in UK to make appropriate presentations to the UK Migration Advisory Committee.



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