



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

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QUESTION NO.301 TALKS ON VISA RESTRICTION WITH USA

March 30, 2017

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.301
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2017

TALKS ON VISA RESTRICTION WITH USA

*301. SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Foreign Secretary has held any talks recently with the United States of America (USA) over visa restrictions for Indian workers;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether USA has agreed to send a team to India for further talks in this regard; and
- (d) what further steps Government is taking to ensure that Indian workers and professionals are not deprived of the trade benefits assured by World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other international agencies?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

*****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 301 REGARDING "TALKS ON VISA RESTRICTION WITH USA" FOR ANSWER ON 30.03.2017

(a) to (d) Foreign Secretary, accompanied by Commerce Secretary, paid a visit to the U.S. on 28 February - 3 March 2017 and held meetings with Cabinet Ministers and senior functionaries of the new

U.S. Administration as well as with the Congressional leadership. The discussions covered all issues of common interest in India-U.S. relations, including those relating to mobility of high-skilled professionals.

The new Trump Administration has so far not announced any comprehensive policy changes impacting non-immigrant work visa programmes. In our interactions with the U.S. Administration as well as the Congress, we have conveyed our interest and concerns and highlighted the mutually-beneficial nature of this partnership. The Government has emphasized that Indian skilled professionals have contributed to the growth and development of the U.S. economy and have helped the U.S. retain its competitive edge and innovation advantage. They are a big stakeholder in India-U.S. relations and their backward linkages to India have helped U.S. businesses. The U.S. side has conveyed that they recognize and value the positive contributions of Indian students and IT professionals.

Government of India is closely monitoring the developments that may have a bearing upon the movement of Indian workers and professionals to the U.S.. We remain in active dialogue with the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress at senior levels to safeguard the interests of Indian workers and professionals in the U.S., including those relating to the commitments made by the U.S. under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the World Trade Organization.



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