



**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India

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## QUESTION NO.175 GREEN CARD APPLICANTS FOR USA

July 19, 2018

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.175  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

### GREEN CARD APPLICANTS FOR USA

175. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether green card applicants of India are more in number and making their trial to get the cards for them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of USA is putting restrictions on the issue of green cards to the foreign nationals and thereby Indian aspirants are facing much difficulty in getting those cards;
- (d) whether Government has made any requests for relaxation of norms for green cards on behalf of the Indian emigrants; and
- (e) whether the Government of USA has responded to our request and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) According to U.S. Government Statistics, the total number of Green Cards awarded to Indian nationals in last 5 years under five categories (Employment-based; Family based; Diversity lottery; Refugees and Asylees; and Other) are as follows:

| Year                                  | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 | FY2016 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Green cards given to Indian nationals | 66,434 | 68,458 | 77,908 | 64,116 | 64,687 |

As per the information released by the US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), as of May 2018, there are a total of 306,601 pending Green Card applications filed by Indian nationals under the Employment-Based Preference Category. Information on Green Card applicants for other categories, including dependent family members of the primary beneficiaries of Employment-Based Preference Category, is not available in public domain.

No comprehensive changes have been made by the US administration recently to the framework for issuance of green cards to foreign nationals. On 28 August 2017, USCIS announced that it would expand in-person interviews for: (i) adjustment of status applications based on employment (employment based green card applications); and (ii) petitions seeking refugee/asylum status with effect from 1 October 2017.

There are several proposals reportedly under consideration in the U.S. for reforming the immigration policy including the eligibility for Green Cards. The Government of India has engaged with the U.S. Administration and the Congress on all matters relating to Indian immigrants and professionals working in the U.S..

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