



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

[Home](#) › [Media Center](#) › [Parliament Q & A](#) › [Rajya Sabha](#)

QUESTION NO.1779 INDIAN IT PROFESSIONALS IN USA

August 02, 2018

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1779
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2018

INDIAN IT PROFESSIONALS IN USA

1779. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the defeated Border Security and Immigration Reform Act in the US House of Representatives recently had proposed a merit based Green Card programme benefiting Indians;
- (b) whether this has come as a setback for a large number of Indian IT professionals dreaming big to secure a green card in US and settle there for good;
- (c) whether Government or the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) had engaged professional consultants for lobbying in USA pleading for a more dignified treatment to Indian IT professionals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) A Bill titled 'Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018' was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on 19 June 2018 and defeated by a 121 - 301 vote on 27 June 2018.

This Bill had, inter alia, proposed to establish a new merit-based Green Card programme which would assess the eligibility of the applicant on the basis of points awarded for education, work experience, English language proficiency etc. The Bill also sought to eliminate per-country caps for Green Cards and shift to a first-in-line visa system.

According to U.S. official statistics, as of May 2018, the total number of employment-based Green Card applications pending in the U.S. is 395,025, of which 306,601 is accounted for by Indian nationals. The U.S. Immigration and Nationality (INA) Act stipulates that a total of 140,000 employment-based Green Cards will be awarded annually, with per-country share capped at 7%, translating to 9,800 employment-based Green Cards. However, in recent years, the number of employment-based Green Cards received by Indian nationals has exceeded the prescribed limit due to the guidelines set forth in the American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act (AC21). For instance, the total number of employment-based Green Cards received by Indian nationals in FY 2016 was 20,747.

The Government of India has closely engaged with the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Administration on all issues relating to the movement of Indian professionals. In our engagements, we have emphasized to the U.S. side that movement of Indian skilled professionals to the U.S. has been a mutually-beneficial partnership which should be nurtured.



[Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Copyright Policy](#) [Hyperlinking Policy](#) [Accessibility Statement](#) [Help](#)

© Content Owned by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Visitors: 141626630 , Page last updated on: 2/8/2018

Working hours at Headquarters 9:00 A.M. To 5:30 P.M.