



Ministry of External Affairs
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QUESTION NO.2264 IMPACT OF SCRAPPING DACA ON INDIAN IMMIGRANTS IN USA

March 15, 2018

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

IMPACT OF SCRAPPING DACA ON INDIAN IMMIGRANTS IN USA

2264. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding Indian immigrants in USA likely to be affected by scrapping of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) by USA administration;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the extent of its impact on Indian immigrants;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to assist Indian immigrants so affected; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (e) Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a program devised by the US Administration in 2012. It provided certain "illegal aliens"- who entered the United States before the age of sixteen- a period of deferred action and eligibility to request employment authorization. As per the latest US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data as of 31 January 2018, there are 2,550 Indian nationals who are active DACA recipients.

In September 2017, the US Administration decided to end DACA and called on the US Congress to pass legislation that offers a permanent solution to the immigrants who were brought to the US as children.

Following this executive decision, USCIS had stopped accepting new applications for DACA. However, subsequent to a court injunction against the executive decision, Department of Homeland Security, in a press release on 7 March 2018, stated that USCIS is accepting and adjudicating DACA renewal requests and associated applications for Employment Authorization Documents provided they are submitted in accordance with the longstanding DACA policies.

The number of DACA beneficiaries of Indian origin is a figure provided by the US government and cannot be verified by the Government as these persons have not registered with the Embassy. Further, the actual impact on DACA recipients will depend on the legislation that will be enacted by the US legislature. As of now, DACA continues to be in effect owing to a court injunction against the Executive decision to rescind DACA. The programme currently continues to exist in a form where USCIS will not be accepting initial applications but will continue to process renewal and employment authorization requests of DACA recipients.



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