

(b) whether Government is aware that thousands of software personnel from Andhra Pradesh are routinely harassed and denied their re-entry work visas on frivolous grounds;

(c) whether Government is aware that Indian citizens are not allowed to re-enter USA when they are mid-way in their jobs; and

(d) the steps Government would take to discuss with US Government on their deliberate policy of harassing Indians who come for short periods to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):  
(a) India and the United States have established a Joint Working Group on Consular issues, including visas. The first meeting of the JWG was held on 25 July, 2011 in Washington DC.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the concerns of Indian IT companies and IT professionals regarding increase in the rate of denial and delays in the issue of the US visas. The IT industry has also drawn attention to incidents of IT professionals with valid visas, being denied entry at US airports.

(d) The Government uses every opportunity, including during trade-related meetings, to raise with the U.S. Government the concerns of the Indian IT companies and professionals. During the visit of US President Barack Obama to India in November 2010, the two sides agreed to facilitate greater movement of professionals between the two countries to enhance their economic and technological partnership. External Affairs Minister once again conveyed our concerns to the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the second India-US Strategic Dialogue on 19 July, 2011 in New Delhi. Secretary Clinton assured External Affairs Minister that she would convey our concerns to the appropriate US government agencies.

#### **Website for Nalanda university**

1916. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nalanda University has launched its website as mandated in the Nalanda University Act, 2010;

(b) if so, the website address thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the University's site would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) No. The Nalanda University has not yet launched its website.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The University has informed that the website is under construction.

(d) It is expected that the website will become operational soon.

#### **Conditions for Civil Nuclear Pact with US**

1917. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Secretary of State during her recent visit reiterated US commitment to the civil nuclear pact with India and asked India to ratify the UN convention on Nuclear damages and bring its domestic liability regime in line with the international norms;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government on said US demand; and

(c) the implications and impact thereof on India's Nuclear programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) to (c) During the recent visit of the US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton to India in July 2011, both sides reiterated their continued commitment for full implementation of the Indo-US Agreement for cooperation concerning peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The US had ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) and India conveyed its intention to ratify the CSC within this year. India is committed to ensuring a level playing field for US companies seeking to enter the Indian nuclear energy sector, consistent with India's national and international legal obligations.

#### **Hike in visa fee by US**

1918. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has increased visa fee which would erode the competitive-ness of Indian information technology firms;