

US issued 99,705 and 108,817 H1B visas to Indian professionals (having India as the country of their birth) in the year 2013 and 2014, respectively. The total number of H1B visas (nonimmigrant visas) issued to Indian nationals by the US for the last six years (2009-2014) are as follows:

Nonimmigrant Visa	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
H1B Visas	55,886	58,664	72,438	80,630	99,705	108,817

(b) No. However, Senator Orrin Hatch (Republican from Utah) on January 13, 2015 introduced a bill called the Immigration Innovation (I-Squared) Bill of 2015. One of the key provisions of this bill is increasing the H1B cap. The bill has been sent to Senate Judiciary Committee which has jurisdiction over immigration related bills, but there has been no movement on this bill so far.

(c) The Government of India has continued to engage the US Administration on non-discriminatory application of their visa policy. H1B visa related issues such as increase in visa processing fees, high rejection rates and other difficulties faced by Indian services companies have been raised with the US Government at various forums including the Trade Policy Forum in November, 2014. This issue has also been taken up with the leadership of the US Congress.

#### **Indo-Pakistan meeting in SCO, UFA, Russia**

†1164. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues on which consensus was arrived at between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan in their meeting in Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit held in Ufa city of Russia and by when the outcome thereof is likely to come up; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 10 July, 2015, on the sidelines of SCO Summit in Ufa, Russia.

During the meeting the following steps were agreed by the two sides:

(i) A meeting in New Delhi between the two NSAs to discuss all issues connected to terrorism.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) Early meetings of DG BSF and DG Pakistan Rangers followed by that of DGMOs.
- (iii) Decision for release of fishermen in each other's custody, along with their boats, within a period of 15 days.
- (iv) Mechanism for facilitating religious tourism.
- (v) Both sides agreed to discuss ways and means to expedite the Mumbai case trial, including additional information like providing voice samples.

#### **Presence of India at World War parade**

1165. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has confirmed its presence in Beijing on September, 2015 in World War II military parade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Pakistan's citizens in Indian jails**

1166. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Pakistan claims India has 120 of its citizens as prisoners and lodged its protest, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also true that India has conveyed to Pakistan that India is going to release all the Pakistani fishermen to mark the holy Ramzan month, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) As per the list of prisoners handed over by India to Pakistan on 1 July, 2015, under the 'India-Pakistan Agreement on Consular Access', India has conveyed that there are 278 Pakistani prisoners lodged in our jails.

During Prime Minister's telephone call to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 16 June, 2015 to convey Ramzan greetings, Prime Minister also conveyed our decision to release 88 Pakistani fishermen detained in Indian jails. The fishermen were released on 21 June, 2015.