
West Bengal

1. Ferdousi Begam
2. Abdul Aziz
3. Jenun Nisha
4. Meher Tabassum
5. Mohammed Nezamuddin
6. Akhtar Navaz
7. Mofazzal Hussain
8. Arshi Azim
9. Seikh Mahiuddin Mandal

Not Yet Confirmed

Mohammad Rizwan

Road blocks against indian workers in USA

1291.DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen media reports that USA Senators plan road blocks against Indian Guest workers; and

(b) whether Government would take up with the USA Administration, the adverse effects of the Grassley-Durbin bill on hiring of Indian IT personnel from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the Bill entitled "H-1B and L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2015", introduced by Senator Charles Ernest Grassley and Senator Richard Joseph Durbin in the US Senate in November 2015. The bill contains several provisions that could potentially affect the interests of H-1B and L-1 visa seekers and IT companies from India adversely. Government of India has raised its concerns with both the US Administration and members of the US Congress over the impact of such legislations.

India has been consistently taking up issues relating to H-1B and L-1 visas with the US Government at all levels from time to time. The issue was raised recently in the Ministerial India-US Trade Policy Forum, held in Washington DC on 29 October 2015

and in the bilateral Consular Dialogue held in Washington DC on 3 November 2015. As per the India and United States Joint Statement on the Trade Policy Forum issued on 29 October 2015, *“The United States and India also decided to continue their engagement on visa issues, and the United States took note of India’s interest in ensuring easier access for Indian professionals in the United States.”*

Sri Lankan Navy arresting Indian fishermen

1292.DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 34 Indian fishermen and their boats seized at Thalaimannar and Kangesanthurai off the northern coast of Sri Lanka;

(b) whether the arrest followed Sri Lankan Government claims that new legislation is being planned in order to confiscate equipment of Indian fishermen allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan waters;

(c) whether the Sri Lankan Navy allegedly damaged two boats by forcing them to collide, seized seven boats and also ruined 40 fishing nets; and

(d) if so, whether Government has taken up this issue with the Sri Lankan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) (a) to (d) From time-to-time, there have been incidents wherein Indian fishermen have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters. However, as a result of steadfast efforts by the Government, all Indian fishermen apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities for fisheries related violations have been released and repatriated, except 41 who were apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities on and after 09 November 2015 while allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters close to its coasts.

In recent times, Indian fishermen have complained of coming under attack of the Sri Lankan Navy while the Sri Lankan Navy have shared pictures of their boats being damaged by some Indian fishermen using booms. Sri Lankan fishermen have also complained of bottom trawling by Indian fishermen and their use of monofilament nets which destroy the nets used by Sri Lankan fishermen.