

[15 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Implementation of New Visa Rules by USA

† *159. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government has recently made extensive changes with regard to the issue of some major categories of working visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the possible repercussions on the Indian visa holders and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Government of the U.S.A. with effect from 16 July, 2004 has introduced new procedure for revalidation/renewal of certain type of visas like E1/E2, H, I, O, L, P.

(b) The holders of visas in above mentioned categories, as mentioned in (a), residing in the USA will have to go back to their home country or any other third country for revalidation/renewal before they are allowed to stay for further period in U.S.A. The procedure for grant of visa is a sovereign right of the country issuing it. U.S. Government has introduced these procedures to comply with their domestic legislation.

(c) The new procedure would affect Indian visa holders in the above categories as mentioned in (a). They would suffer hardships and financial loss in travelling out of USA to get their visas extended. The application of these rules is universal to all countries. The grant of visa by any country is a sovereign right of that country. U.S. Government has introduced these procedures to comply with their domestic legislation.

Common approach towards nuclear doctrines between India and Pakistan

*160. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are convinced that India and Pakistan should explore a common approach towards nuclear doctrines; and

(b) if so, whether Government would like to propose steps beyond confidence building measures to promote stability?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.