

on the part of Government of India to provide diplomatic immunity to diplomats and their family members unless it is waived by the sending state on the request of the Government of India, as per Article 32 of the Vienna Convention.

(c) In line with Article 31 (4) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, the immunity of a diplomatic agent from the jurisdiction of the receiving state does not exempt him from the jurisdiction of the sending state. The Government of India requested the Government of Senegal for trial of Mr. Mansoor Ali, son of the Ambassador of Senegal for culpable homicide not amounting to murder under their local laws. The Senegalese Govt. exercising its sovereign prerogative recalled the Ambassador & family. In the other two cases, the need for waiver of diplomatic immunity or trial of diplomats concerned did not arise as no specific charges could be framed by the police against them.

L-1 Non-Immigration Reforms Act

1255. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Congress has announced plans to introduce the 'L-1 Non-Immigration Reforms Act' which would plug loopholes which allow companies to recruit foreign workers at lower wages thereby displacing the American workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the fate of the Indians on L-1 visas in USA; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the Indian workers affected by the legislation as aforesaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Two members of the United States Congress have introduced legislative proposals that seek to place restrictions on the annual quota of L-1 visas and regulate the conditions under which employers can hire and deploy professionals on L-1 visas. The proposed legislation, if enacted, could have a negative impact on future operations of Indian information technology firms in the United States.

(c) Government is working with all concerned to emphasise the mutual interest of India and the United States in unrestricted growth of India-U.S. ties in the information technology industry.