

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1198  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005  
UNDERSTAFFING IN INDIAN MISSIONS  
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Indian Missions abroad are understaffed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it leads to delay in processing visa requests of prospective foreign tourists to India; and
- (d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d) There has been an exponential increase in the requirements for consular services relating to passport and visas. Increase in staff strength has not kept pace with this sharp increase in workload due to austerity measures including a ban on creation of new posts and optimization of direct recruitment. However, all Missions/Posts abroad have been instructed to ensure that there is no delay in processing the visa requests of prospective foreign tourists to India. Computerization of consular services has also been undertaken in several Missions/Posts abroad to improve efficiency. Further, the Staff Inspection Unit has recently carried out a study and recommended additional posts in consular services in Missions/Posts abroad.