

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:152  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006  
NEW VISA RULES BY US  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the US has delivered a new set of visa rules affecting Indians;
- (b) is so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether steps have been undertaken by the Government to bail out Indian IT workers in the US;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the success achieved in this regard so far?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 152 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.03.2006 REGARDING 'NEW VISA RULES BY US'

(a)-(b) Government is aware that on 17 January 2006 the US Departments of State and Homeland Security announced measures to speed up the processing of US visas. It is Government's understanding that to decrease the wait time for visa appointments for travelers, American Embassies and Consulates have now established procedures to expedite the processing of business visas and are working closely with local American Chambers of Commerce in many countries to expedite the visa process for bona fide business travelers. US authorities also announced that in the coming months, the Homeland Security and State Departments will work to extend the length of time for foreign students to arrive and live in the US; student visas would be issued up to 120 days before classes begin, as compared to 90 days under current regulations, and students would be allowed into the US 45 days in advance of their studies as compared to 30 days at present.

(c)-(e) Indian missions and consulates abroad, including in the US, are under instructions to render all necessary consular assistance to Indian citizens. Indian consular officers are in regular contact with local authorities of their jurisdiction to assist Indian nationals as required.