

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2806

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2006

VISAS

Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there have been unusual delays in issuing visas to foreign workers from China, Taiwan and Sri Lanka for working in units set up in SEZs in the country;
- (b) If so, whether this delay in issue of visas for foreign workers is attributed to abundant caution exercised by the Home Ministry on national security considerations;
- (c) If so, whether such delays are likely to send wrong signals among overseas investors in Indian SEZs; and
- (d) If so, the steps taken by the Government to simplify the procedure to avoid delay in issue of visas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

- (a) : There is no general ban on employment of foreigners, including foreign workers from China, Taiwan and Sri Lanka. However, such foreigners need to qualify in terms of eligibility as laid down for grant of visa. Grant of visa to such foreigners is also made subject to security verification wherever put in place or appear appropriate and necessary.
- (b)&(c):Government conveys the clearance as expeditiously as possible, subject to security verification, wherever required.
- (d):Changes in the visa regime is a continuous process. Recently, the visa guidelines for Chinese nationals have been liberalized, while maintaining the necessity of security verification wherever in place.