

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1066
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
VISAS TO FOREIGN STUDENTS
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the image of India is being maligned due to delay in providing visa to foreign students as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 20, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the step/action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a)&(b) There have been a few instances of delay in issuing student visas by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The delay has mainly been due to foreign students not fulfilling the prescribed conditions concerning grant of student visas.
- (c)&(d) The Government has recently liberalised grant of student visas. The liberalised provisions are given below: -
 - (i) Visa to be granted for admission in recognised/reputed educational institutions in India;
 - (ii) Visa co-terminus with the duration of the course or 5 years whichever is less;
 - (iii) No restriction on number of courses that can be pursued;
 - (iv) No restriction with respect to change of the course or institute or both;
 - (v) Student visa for industrial training/summer project/internship;
 - (vi) Waiver of the requirement of No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of Human Resource Development; and
 - (vii) Extendibility on the grounds of clearing supplementaries.