

Permits Foundation

working together to promote change worldwide



Shri. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India
Government of India
New Delhi

10 March 2010

RIGHT TO WORK FOR SPOUSES OF EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES

Hon'ble Sir

Greetings from Permits Foundation!

Permits Foundation is an international non-profit corporate initiative to promote access of accompanying spouses and partners of expatriate employees to employment through an improvement of work permit regulations.

In view of the increasing number of dual careers in families, international employers find difficulties in obtaining work permits for spouses to be a hurdle to mobility.

As per the rules being applied by the Bureau of Immigration, "if the spouse wishes to take up any employment in India, then he or she will be required to return to the country of origin and obtain a requisite employment visa."

Permits Foundation proposes that spouses of employees on inter-company transfers be permitted to work and at the very least via a simple change of visa status at the FRRO in India.

In connection with this, we have made representations to Mr Shashi Tharoor, Union Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Asim Khurana, Joint Secretary (F), Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Mr A. Manickam, Joint Secretary, (CPV) & CPO, Ministry of External Affairs.

The CII has also endorsed the proposal which they believe will also benefit Indian international companies operating in India.

We are happy to share that all concerned ministries are willing to discuss the issue to find a way forward in areas of agreement.

More than forty major international companies and organisations worldwide have joined the Foundation to encourage governments to adopt concessions in line with international best practice.

Sir, given that multiple ministries are involved in the framing of Visa laws, may we request you to kindly enable a nodal ministry to coordinate with all concerned ministries to arrive at a consensus on appropriate amendments on visa laws applicable to spouses of expatriates employed as a part of intra-corporate transfers.

Yours faithfully,

K. van der Wilk.

Kathleen van der Wilk-Carlton
Board Member
Permits Foundation

ANNEXURES

1. Representation
2. Executive summary of the representation
3. Report of global survey of spouses of intra-company transferees
4. International comparison of employment work authorisation for spouses
5. Study on issues with current Indian visa regime for spouses
6. Detailed regulations on spouse employment in the UK
7. Detailed regulations on spouse employment in Malaysia
8. The Economic Times article dated August 19, 2009
9. Article in Outlook dated March 8, 2010