



7 April 2016

General (Retd) Vijay Kumar Singh
Minister of State
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India
New Delhi

Sub: Right to work of spouses of expatriate intra-company transferees

Dear General Singh,

Greetings from Permits Foundation!

This is further to our meeting with you on 9th February 2015 and subsequent correspondence on 17th February 2015. We are much obliged for the time you spared to meet representatives and delegates from International organizations and hear concerns about how the current visa regime makes it difficult for spouses of both intra-company transferees and those on official visas to get a job or be self-employed in India.

We are particularly encouraged by your then commitment to sound out support at ministerial level for the proposals we submitted to the MHA. We hoped, this would bring together cross-ministry interest in a solution and translate into action the support we have been building over several years for a revision of the visa guidelines.

Over the year we have been in communication with the relevant departments of the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, no concrete measures have been effected as of now despite the consensus that it would be a progressive step. As India opens up to the world under Prime Minister's proactive global diplomacy along with 'Make In India' pitch, we believe that any government support to our cause will go a long way in making India a preferred destination for the global talent pool.

Sir, this is an issue for International employers, who experience work permit difficulties for spouses as a hurdle to mobility of their globally assigned staff. Countries increasingly recognise that this impacts adversely on international business and investment. As a result, 30 countries now grant a right to work for spouses of intra-corporate transferees or other highly skilled staff. Indian families benefit from these measures when assigned abroad.

We write to request an appointment with you to share the progress since our last meeting in February 2015 and further explore the ways and means for simplification of the process of Visa administration for spouses of employees on intra-company transfer or global organization.

Permits Foundation is an international non-profit organisation campaigning globally to improve work permit regulations to make it easier for spouses and partners of expatriate staff to gain employment during an international assignment. We propose that spouses of employees on intra-company transfers in India also be permitted to work or be self-employed.

We would be much obliged if you could spare some time for the requested meeting.

Yours faithfully,



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