

April 8, 2016

Shri Kiren Rijju  
Minister of State  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Government of India  
New Delhi

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

Dear Shri Rijju,

Greetings from Permits Foundation!

This is further to our meeting with you on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at your august office and your support for a new intra-corporate transfer regulation that shall allow accompanying spouses to work or be self-employed in India.

As per your advice, we met and had a very positive discussion with Joint Secretary Mr. G.K. Dwivedi at Foreigners Division office on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015. As per his directions, we submitted to him on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 a compilation of preliminary data on number of Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) spouses likely to seek work in India.

However, no 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 a follow up appointment with you to share the progress since our last meeting in July 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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Cc: Kathleen van der Wilk-Carlton, Executive Director Permits Foundation