

# India Could Take a \$30 Billion Hit from U.S. Immigration Bill



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New Delhi: The Indian economy could lose \$30 billion annually, with the IT industry being the hardest hit, if an immigration bill under consideration in the U.S. Congress becomes law, the Indian American Advisory Council of the House Republican Conference has said.

The IAAC, which advises the House of Representatives on India-related issues, said

U.S. Immigration Bill S744 calls for significantly cutbacks on outsourcing.

"If the bill becomes a law, then India's GDP gets reduced by about \$30 billion a year. On top of that, employment situation will be badly hit. Direct impact will be 10 million Indian IT professionals will no longer have any work and 500,000 in the U.S.," IAAC Chairman Shalabh Kumar told PTI.

The bill bans placement of H-1B or L-1 visa holders at client firms if they form more than 15% of the firm's American workforce. It also limits to 50% the proportion of H-1B and L-1 visa workers relative to a firm's total employees in the U.S. by the financial year 2017 ,starting October 2016.

"About 98% of the bill is focused on providing relief to 20 million Hispanic Americans. Democrats want them to give citizenship that will give them a huge vote bank," Kumar said. "If Democrats get that part of the bill passed, they will gain at least 10 senate seats and take control of the house."

Kumar said the clause that adversely impacts India's interest was added in the bill following complaints by some American corporations and a poll campaign slogan, "Say No to Bangalore and Yes to Buffalo," used by Barack Obama in 2009.