

UK Immigration: Rules that will change lives

- Rupanjana Dutta

UK government has now declared a new set of rules that not only put restrictions on the free inflow of students in the UK but also cuts off the possibility of highly skilled immigrants to fill up the gaps that cannot be otherwise filled in by the Britons.

Similarly we fail to understand how the government proposes to fill up the gaps in a curry house with a Polish cook or a high street restaurant pay hundreds for getting skilled cooks from India or Bangladesh or even Pakistan, sponsoring their visa with thousands of pounds? It is practically impossible!

The foreign students, according to the new laws are expected to go home after their course is over without any British experience. The question that persists is- why will one pay thousands to come and read in a university for an year and leave, when she or he deserves to gain some UK work experience, that is equally important on a CV.

Currently under the Post Study Work Route, degree graduates are able to remain in the UK a further two years to find a job, which can then eventually lead to permanent settlement.

of what they are ruling. Any foreign student from Commonwealth countries are forced to take IELTS exam to qualify or rather meet the UK standards of education. There are very few students who come to the UK to study English. It is mostly East European and other European nations who have people migrating to the UK to study English.

Immigration Minister Damian Green told the Asian Voice:

"I believe attracting talented students from abroad is vital to the UK but we must be more selective about who can come here and how long they can stay.

"People imagine students to be those who come here for a few years to study at university and then go home - that is not always the case. Too many students coming to study at below degree level have been coming here to live and work, rather than studying. We need to stop this abuse.

"Today's proposals follow a major review of the system, and are aimed at a more selective system and, crucially, reducing the numbers to meet our target of reducing net migration to sustainable levels."

The Home Secretary also announced on 23 November 2010 a number



Damian Green MP

For settlement, there will be a new criminality threshold, requiring all applicants applying for settlement to be clear of unspent convictions. Skilled and highly skilled migrants will need to meet the salary criteria that applied when they last extended their permission to stay.

All migrants in an economic route will be required to pass the 'Life in the UK' test prior to gaining settlement. If they do not pass the test, they will have their application for settlement refused and they will be required to leave the UK. The ability for new entrants in the Intra Company Transfer route to extend their leave beyond five years will be removed.

Amit Kapadia, Executive Director of HSMP Forum said, "It is important to note that the government did not conduct any consultation for the immigration cap itself. MAC was appointed to conduct consultations as to what the numbers for such a cap should be and upon its application. What





Damian Green, the immigration minister, announced that the route is to be closed as part of a major review of student visas that will also prevent up to 100,000 fewer foreigners coming each to study every year.

The Daily Telegraph disclosed on Monday that students will only be allowed to come to study at degree level following concerns that up to half come to attend lower tier courses, such as vocational or A-levels, at private colleges. The language requirement for students will only be raised to that of GCSE level. We are not sure if the government before making laws think

of changes to immigration policy in respect of Tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system, designed to deliver the government's commitment to place a limit on non-EU economic migration to the UK. Further details of these changes will be published before they are implemented in April 2011.

Tier 1 (General) route will be closed while Tier 2 will continue to be open to migrants working in these fields. The Tier 2 (General) route will be subject to a limit of 20,700 places for 2011/12.

Tier 2 (General) applications will be restricted to graduate-level vacancies.

is even more surprising is that the government is contradicting with Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations.

This proves that the government is not really interested in listening to what the stakeholders think but is rather only interested in fulfilling its own political agendas. We believe the cap is not good for British economy and especially it is not wise to introduce such experimental measures when the country is still trying to recover from the economic downturn. The coalition government seems to be compromising on what is good for the British economy when it comes to its own political agendas. We believe such measures at the least should be postponed until the economy fully recovers."

A city immigration lawyer told Asian Voice, "I do not think the changes to Tier 1 will stand a chance and it may be open to judicial review."