

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:541
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR AIR TRAVELLERS
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Nepal have made it mandatory for air travellers of either country to carry identification document including passport from October, 2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the conditions of air journey will apply for journey by land also; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) India and Nepal have agreed to tighten the existing system whereby Indian and Nepalese nationals travelling by air between the two countries are required to present photo identification documents to establish their nationality. A pruned-down list of admissible travel documents will be introduced with effect from October 1, 2000.

Indian citizens would be required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:

- Valid national passport. - Photo identity card issued by the Government of India / any State Government or Union Territory Administration in India / Identity card issued by the Election Commission of India. - Emergency Certificate issued by Embassy of India, Kathmandu to Indian nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Nepalese citizens would be required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:

- Valid national passport. - Photo identity card issued by the Government of Nepal. - Emergency Certificate issued by the Royal Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi to the Nepalese nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Children up to the age of 10 years will not require the above-mentioned documents for travelling between India and Nepal, by air.

(c) & (d) There is no proposal at this stage to extend the above conditions to travel between the two countries across the land border. However, both sides have agreed to strengthen cooperation to control undesirable activities and the movement of terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements across the open India-Nepal border. Bilateral institutional mechanisms have been evolved with the objective of facilitating joint efforts to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border, while ensuring that the facility remains available for legitimate users.