

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4319
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
INDIA TIGHTENS VISA RULES
Sule Supriya

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has suggested/announced amendments or has issued directions to all the missions abroad to check misuse of multiple entry tourist visa by foreigners who apply for long term tourist visa instead of opting for residency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which these new rules are likely to help in checking misuse of visa?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA)

(a): Yes.

(b) & (c): As per the extant instructions of the Government of India, a Tourist Visa can only be granted to a foreigner who does not have a residence or occupation in India and whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight seeing, casual visit to meet friends and relatives etc. No other activity is permissible on a Tourist Visa. The Tourist Visa is non- extendable and non-convertible.

With a view to curb the abuse/misuse of the Tourist Visa, instructions have been issued by the Government imposing the following restrictions:-

- i) In respect of foreign nationals holding Tourist Visas with multiple entry facility, there should be a gap of at least 2 months between two visits to the country on such a Tourist Visa.
- ii) If any foreign national is required to visit the country again within a period of 2 months of his last departure, such foreign national should obtain special permission from the Mission/Post concerned. The Mission/Post may consider such requests on merits of each case. In all such cases, the foreign national should register himself with the FRRO/FRO concerned within 14 days of arrival. An endorsement to this effect will be made on the visa sticker.

The ministry is reviewing the experience of travelers affected by the above restriction in recent months with a view to refining the policy while ensuring the Tourist Visa is not abused/misused.