

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:156  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011  
ENTRY RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGNERS  
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a): Whether the Government had imposed any restriction on entry of foreigners in prohibited/non-prohibited areas of the North-Eastern Region including Manipur and Nagaland;
- (b): if so, the details thereof alongwith its effect on the tourism sector in the region;
- (c): whether the Government has decided to lift such restrictions to boost the existing tourism infrastructure in the region;
- (d): if so, the details thereof; and
- (e): if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a)&(b): The entire State of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and parts of Sikkim are 'Protected Areas' under Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 issued under Section 3 of the Foreigners Act, 1946 by Ministry of Home Affairs. Some areas of Sikkim have been declared as 'Restricted Area' under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963. In terms of Foreigners (Protected Area) Order 1958 and Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, no foreigners shall enter into or remain in any protected area/restricted area except under and in accordance with the permit issued by Central Government or any officer authorized by the Central Government in this behalf. For promoting tourism in North Eastern States, guidelines regarding relaxation of Protected Area Permit/Restricted Area Permit regime have been issued from time to time by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) to (e): As there were requests from State Governments of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland for lifting the restrictions on foreigners to boost the tourism sector in their States, the matter was considered by this Ministry and it has been decided to exclude the entire area of the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland from the Protected Area Regime notified under Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 initially for a period of one year w.e.f. 1st January, 2011 subject to certain conditions. Necessary notification in this regard was issued on 30th December, 2010.

The State of Arunachal Pradesh continues to be a Protected Area under Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958. Some areas of Sikkim continue to be Protected Areas/Restricted Areas under Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 and Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963. However, orders have been issued in the past relaxing Protected Area Permit/Restricted Area Permit Regime in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in selected tour circuits for promoting visit of foreign tourists to those tour circuits.