

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011  
VISA-FREE ACCESS  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of 193 nations, Indians have visa-free access to only 50;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government had undertaken any steps to identify the reasons for the restrictions on Indians to enter into other countries; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to take up the issue with the respective Governments?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) India has bilateral agreements with 52 countries. Under the agreements, holders of Indian official and/or diplomatic passports can enter these countries and stay in their territories for specified periods. Holders of ordinary Indian passports can enter Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal without visa. A list of such countries is enclosed at ANNEXURE.

(c) & (d) Visa is a normal and necessary international requirement by all countries for entry into their territories unless waived under a bilateral agreement between any two or a group of countries. Depending on the ongoing progress in bilateral relations between the countries, they propose signing of visa free agreements between themselves. The requirement of visa is universal and not for Indians only.