

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3116
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
SCREENING OF INDIANS BEFORE ENTRY IN UK
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether screening for Tuberculosis (TB) has been made mandatory for Indians by the Government of U.K. for issue of visa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such conditions have been laid down by other countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (d) The Government of the U.K. announced in May 2012 that applicants from certain countries who wish to visit the UK for more than six months are required to submit a certificate that they are free from infectious TB before they make their visa application. India has been included in the list of 67 countries which have been added to the existing list of 15 countries having incidence of TB. This new pre-entry screening requirement is applicable only to those who apply for visas to enter the UK for longer than 6 months, with only few exceptions.

As per information available, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States have also laid certain conditions with respect to TB Screening.

(e) India's concerns regarding this issue have been raised with the Government of UK, during the last round of India – UK Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on June 1, 2012.