

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1343  
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013  
MOVEMENT OF TOURISTS IN NER  
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to relax the rules to permit free movement of foreign tourists in the North-Eastern region of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented; and
- (c) the extent to which this move is likely to boost tourism in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) The movement of foreign tourists in the North-Eastern Region of the country is regulated in terms of Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 and Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963. 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 also been declared 'Restricted Area' under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963.

2. In terms of Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 and Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, no foreigner 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. Every foreigner, except a citizen of Bhutan, who desires to enter and stay in a Protected or Restricted Area, is required to obtain a special permit from a competent authority delegated with powers to issue such a permit to a foreigner.

3. However, on the requests of the North-Eastern States to promote tourism in their States, certain guidelines regarding relaxation of Protected Area Permits / Restricted Area Permits in certain areas of the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, have been issued from time to time, with a view to facilitate visits of foreigners to these States for tourism purpose. Further, the entire area of the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland was excluded 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 to 1st December, 2011, which is being extended on year to year basis and the last such extension given was for one year beyond 31st December, 2012.

4. However, citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries would continue to require prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs before their visit to the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Further, citizens of Myanmar visiting the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland beyond 16 Kms from the Indo -Myanmar border would continue to require prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs for visiting these States.