

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:291

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

VISA AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the new Visa Agreement between India and Pakistan has been operationalised in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details along with its features and objectives thereof; and
- (c) the pre-emptive measures taken by the Government to check the violation of the new Visa Agreement by Pakistani nationals?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The new Visa Agreement signed between the Governments of India and Pakistan on 8th September, 2012 was operationalized w.e.f. 14th December, 2012 except the provisions relating to Visa on Arrival and Group Tourist Visa. Whereas modalities are being worked out for, visa Arrival for Senior Citizens (above 65 years of age) to operationalise the provision relating to Group Tourist Visa is scheduled to take effect from 15th March, 2013. The new Visa Agreement aims to facilitate travel for the nationals of both countries desirous of travelling to the other country and to promote people to people contact. Key features of the Agreement are given below:-

- (i) Number of places of visit allowable on a Visitor visa has been increased from three to five.
 - (ii) Visitor Visa can be issued for a period up to two years in respect of persons above 65 years of age, national of one country married to national of the other country and children below 12 years accompanying such parents.
 - (iii) Visa on Arrival can be granted at Attari/ Wagah check-post to persons more than 65 years of age for 45 days with single entry.
 - (iv) Business Visa with exemption from Police Reporting can be granted to businessmen with an annual income above Pak Rs. 5 million or equivalent or annual turnover above Pak Rs. 30 million or equivalent.
 - (v) Group Tourist Visa for 30 days may be issued for travel in groups, with not less than 10 members and not more than 50 members in each group, organized by approved tour operators/travel agents.
 - (vi) Entry and exit from different designated Immigration Check Posts can be allowed, if indicated in application. However, exit from Wagha/ Attari on foot cannot be accepted unless the entry was also on foot via Attari/ Wagah.
- (c): Procedural/ established formalities/ guidelines designed to check any violation of the provisions in the Visa Agreement are already in place. These include pre-verification of antecedents of visa applicants, submission of a sponsorship certificate duly attested by an authorized officer in India, police reporting within 24 hours of arrival in respect of those Pakistan nationals who are issued visa with Police Reporting etc.