

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:215

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014

LIBERALISATION OF VISA REGIME

Mullappally Shri Ramachandran; Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to liberalise the visa regime by relaxing visa rules including introduction and extension of Visa on Arrival and electronic travel authorization facility to attract foreign tourists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of countries to which the facility is likely to be extended along with the names of the countries requiring 'prior reference';
- (c) the details of airports where the said facilities are available along with the names of those airports where these facilities are likely to be extended; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government for security of foreign tourists in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 215 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2014

(a) to (c): The facility of Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVOA) enabled with Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) would be introduced in a phased manner at nine airports viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Goa airports. Government of India had already permitted Tourist Visa on Arrival facility for the citizens of 12 countries viz. Japan, Singapore, Finland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Myanmar, Indonesia and Republic of Korea. The additional countries to which Tourist Visa on Arrival facility would be extended would be identified in a phased manner.

(d): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime, including crime against tourists is the primary responsibility of the State Government/Union Territories. However, in order to ensure safety and security of tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territories to deploy tourist police in the States/Union Territories. Some of the State Governments have deployed tourist police in one form or the other.

Further, the guidelines for formation of tourist security organization comprising ex-servicemen, formulated by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and Directorate General of Resettlements have been forwarded to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations.

In addition to above, the Union Ministry of Tourism, along with stakeholders has formally adopted the code of conduct for "safe and honourable tourism" which is a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activity to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourist and local residents. Also Ministry of Tourism has posted an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org.