

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3557

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Easing Visa Norms

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has eased Visa norms for a number of countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are plans to expand the list; and
- (d) if so, the names of the countries proposed to be selected for this purpose?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : The visa norms for the nationals of various countries are reviewed from time to time depending upon the mutual relations, security concerns, necessity and inputs received from various stake holders.

During the last one year, the following visa relaxations have been given :-

- i) Business Visa for a period of 10 years to the Canadian Nationals with the stipulation that "the continuous stay during each visit shall not exceed 180 days and registration not required."
- ii) Tourist Visa for a period of 10 years to the Canadian Nationals with the stipulation that "the continuous stay during each visit shall not exceed 180 days and registration not required."
- iii) Three years Multiple Entry Business Visa to Pakistan Businessmen as unilateral measure by India.
- iv) Group Pilgrim Visa to minority communities in Pakistan to visit religious places in India.
- v) For facilitating foreign tourist visiting India, e-Tourist visa scheme has also been launched in November, 2014. At present this facility has been extended to 77 countries.

Revision of Visa norms is a continuous process and necessary changes are made taking into account various aspects concerning national interest.
