

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3751
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014
MISUSE OF TOURIST VISA
Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that several tourists coming to India on tourist visa are involved in coverage of events/journalistic activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to its missions abroad for issuing directions to foreigners in this regard while issuing visa; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Instances of foreigners coming on Tourist Visas and covering events/journalistic activities has come to the notice of the Government. Tourist Visa is not the appropriate visa for such activities by the foreigners. As per the extant instructions a Tourist Visa is granted to foreigners who do not have a residence or occupation in India and whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sight seen, casual visit to meet friends or relatives etc. and no other purpose/activity is permissible on a Tourist Visa. Instructions have been issued by the Government to all State Governments / Union Territory Administrations and immigration authorities on 3rd January, 2013 reiterating the above position and advising them to ensure that no other activity is permitted on a Tourist Visa.