

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3752

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014

PROTECTED AREAS

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

(a) the details of the areas in the country including North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand which are declared as protected and entry of foreigners and Indians are prohibited without permits;

(b) whether there is any proposal to grant relaxation in order to promote tourism in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): As per the extant provisions under the Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 certain areas in the country have been declared as 'Protected Area' while some areas have been declared as 'Restricted Area' under the Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963 All areas falling between the 'Inner Line' as defined in the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 and the International Border of the State come under the Protected Area. Presently, Protected Areas are:

1. Whole of Arunachal Pradesh,
2. Parts of Himachal Pradesh,
3. Parts of Jammu & Kashmir,
4. Parts of Rajasthan,
- >5. Whole of Sikkim (partly in Protected Area and partly in Restricted Area).
6. Parts of Uttarakhand.

The following areas are declared as 'Restricted Areas' under the Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order 1963 –

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands,

2. Sikkim (part of the State – Areas between the West Bengal – Sikkim border and the 'Inner Line' come under the Restricted Area.

Ministry of Home Affairs vide letter dated 31.12.2013 has issued instructions to exclude the entire area of the State of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland from the Protected Areas regime for a period of 2 (two) years beyond 31.12.2013. It has also been decided that Myanmar nationals visiting the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland may also be excluded from the requirement of obtaining a Protected Area Permit initially for a period of one year w.e.f. 01.01.2014.