

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.972
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017

ISSUE OF VISA BY INDIAN EMBASSIES IN EUROPE

972. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that obtaining an Indian visa in European countries is a cumbersome process because the foreign nationals are issued visa only through couriers which charges hefty amount as high as ₹ 15,000 equivalent in Indian currency;
- (b) whether applicants would not only save time but also a substantial amount of money which otherwise goes to the couriers and not to the Indian exchequer if such visas are delivered by hand; and
- (c) whether Government would consider the matter and provide the facility of delivery of visas by hand if requested specifically?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

- (a) No. Indian visas in European and other countries are delivered by the Indian Embassies and Consulates by hand or sent through courier if requested by the applicant. Wherever, the visa services are outsourced, the same procedures are followed by the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in the country concerned. The charges for courier services are fixed by the Embassies/Consulates for the Service Provider as per local market rates. The applicant can also authorise his/her own couriers to pick up the documents from the Embassy or the IVAC as the case may be. Depending on the country and the type of courier services sought by the applicants, the charges vary between ₹ 180/- and ₹ 2160/-
- (b) Applicants in Europe usually prefer to pick up visas through courier to save travel time and expenses. Since the cost of courier charges are borne by the applicants, the question of any money coming to the Indian exchequer does not arise.
- (c) The option to pick up visas by hand is a normal facility always available to the applicants in Indian Embassies and IVACs including those in the European countries.
