

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1612
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018**

GLOBAL PASSPORT INDEX

1612. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian passport ranks a dismal 67 out of 94 in the global passport index below Ghana, Mongolia, Botswana, Lesotho, Kazakhstan and others;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of countries where Indian citizens could visit visa free or on visa on arrival basis;
- (d) the details of countries that enjoy visa free/visa on arrival facilities in India;
- (e) whether such an arrangement is on a reciprocal basis; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to increase the acceptability of the Indian passport abroad?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) As per the information available on www.passportindex.org, the Arton Capital Passport Index (ACPI) gives global ranking to various passports based on the "visa free" status accorded to the passport holders of a specific country. The current passport ranking is based on the number of countries a passport holder can visit Visa Free or gets Visa on Arrival. To determine the individual rank of each passport, a Visa Free Score (VFS) is prepared which is the sum of Visa Free (VF) and Visa on Arrival (VoA) facility accorded to the passport holder of a country.

As per the ACPI, India is ranked 67th as on 22 December, 2018 with a VFS of 65; 25 countries according VF entry and 40 countries granting VOA facility to Indian passport holders. India was ranked 73rd in 2017 with a VFS of 57 with 25 countries according VF entry and 32 countries granting VOA facility to Indian passport holders. The details are at **Annexure – I & II.**

(d) The countries that enjoy visa free facility in India are Bhutan and Nepal and this is on reciprocal basis. The countries which enjoy visa on arrival facilities in India are Japan and Republic of Korea.

(e) & (f) Extension of Visa on Arrival and Visa free Entry is a unilateral decision of the receiving country. The Government has, however, been continuously liberalizing the visa policy with the objective of promoting investments and tourism into India from other countries. The e-Visa scheme has been further liberalized to allow business visits and medical treatment in India. The number of entries and validity of e-Visas has been increased and the scheme has been expanded to include 166 countries and territories till date. These initiatives are expected to encourage other countries to reciprocate and facilitate travel of Indian passport holders to their countries. As more countries permit Indian passport holders to visit Visa Free or grant them Visa on Arrival facility, the rank of the Indian passport on the Global Passport Index is expected to improve.

List of countries and territories where Indian passport holders can visit Visa Free

1. Belarus
2. Bhutan
3. Nepal
4. Samoa
5. Niue
6. Senegal
7. Serbia

List of countries and territories where Indian passport holders can get the facility of Visa on Arrival

1. Angola	31. Mauritania
2. Armenia	32. Mozambique
3. Georgia	33. Mauritiu
4. Australia	34. Malaysia
5. Azerbaijan	35. Trinidad & Tobago
6. Brunei Darussalam	36. Nigeria
7. Colombia	37. Oman (applicable only for Indian nationals who hold USA visa)
8. Egypt	38. Peru
9. Ethiopia	39. Qatar
10. Fiji	40. Moldova
11. Cook Island	41. Russia
12. Tuvalu	42. Guinea Bissau
13. Kiribati	43. Cabo Verde
14. Vanutu	44. Suriname
15. France (only Reunion Island)	45. Seychelles
16. Burkina Faso	46. Thailand
17. Togo	47. Tajikistan
18. St. Kitts & Nevis	48. Tunisia
19. Indonesia	49. Turkey
20. Iran	50. Tanzania
21. Jordan	51. Uganda
22. Jamaica	52. Ukraine
23. Kenya (except Somalia)	53. United Arab Emirates (only Dubai)
24. Kyrgyzstan	54. Uzbekistan
25. Cambodia	55. Vietnam
26. Laos	56. Zambia
27. Sri Lanka	57. Zimbabwe
28. Madagascar	
29. Maldives	
30. Myanmar	