

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1917
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

VISA FOR INDIAN ORIGIN PEOPLE

1917. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many people of Indian origin residing in other countries are facing difficulties to obtain Visa to visit India during the COVID-19 pandemic period;
- (b) steps the Government is taking to ensure that the people of Indian origin abroad are given visa to visit India on urgent basis ; and
- (c) the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (c) Owing to onset of Covid-19 pandemic, the Government of India took a series of measures to control its spread by curtailing inward/outward movement of International passangers (both foreigners as well as Indians) in calibrated manner since February, 2020.

As part of un-locking process, the government started relaxing visa and travel restrictions in a phased manner since April, 2020 facilitating entry of foreign nationals, including foreign nationals of Indian origin, into India. Even when most of the other categories of Indian visas were under suspension, the Government from 21 October 2020 permitted all OCI cardholders & PIO cardholders holding passports of any country and all foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose except those on Tourist visa to enter India by water routes or by flights including those under the Vande Bharat Mission or 'air bubble' scheme or by non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the M/o Civil Aviation. The Indian Missions/Posts were also authorized to issue 'X-Misc' visa of appropriate duration to those foreign national, including Persons of Indian origin, who were not covered by the categories of visas permitted to enter India but required to visit India urgently due to any family emergency. Further, the e-Visa scheme was restored effective from 30.03.2021 with all sub-categories except e-Tourist visa.

The Government has allowed foreigners to visit India from 07 October 2021 on e-Tourist visa/Regular Tourist visa for 30 days duration through chartered flights (for group tourism) from 15.10.2021 and for individual foreigners from 15.11.2021. As on date, Indian Missions/Posts abroad and Burearu of Immigration are issuing all categories of Indian Visas, under Regular Visa scheme and e-Visa scheme as per laid-down procedures.

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