

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.168**  
ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

**PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO ATTRACT FOREIGN TOURISTS**

168. DR. SONAL MANSINGH:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) countries which have been given tourist Visas;
- (b) the details of exemption in the field of tourism by Government to attract foreign tourists, the detailed description thereof;
- (c) whether Government has signed any agreement with any other country for the purpose of promoting tourism in India; and
- (d) if not, whether Government is preparing any plan to do so?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.168 ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO ATTRACT FOREIGN TOURISTS.**

(a): A Tourist Visa is granted to a foreigner whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, attending a short term yoga programme, short duration medical treatment including treatment under Indian systems of medicine, short term courses on local languages, music, dance, arts & crafts, cooking, medicine etc. which should not be a formal or structured course/programme (courses not exceeding 6 months duration and not issued with a qualifying certificate/diploma etc.), and voluntary work of short duration (for a maximum period of one month, which do not involve any monetary payment or consideration of any kind in return), etc. and no other purpose/activity.

Subject to different duration of Visa and number of entries, Indian Missions/Posts may grant Tourist Visa to the nationals of all countries. Presently, Pakistan and China nationals are not granted Tourist Visa. Also, at present Indian Missions/Posts may grant multiple entries Tourist Visa for a period of 10 years to nationals of the United States of America and Japan.

e-Tourist Visa is presently extended to the nationals of 165 countries for entry through 29 designated international airports and 5 major seaports in India. List of 165 countries is annexed at Annexure-I. Presently e-tourist Visa is granted under three options:

- (a) For 5 years with multiple entry;
- (b) For one year with multiple entry and;
- (c) For one month with double entry.

(b): Post covid, to restart inbound tourism in the country and attract foreign tourist, the Government of India announced 5,00,000 free visa to the tourists of foreign nationals, to ensure a geographical spread of the incentive to important source markets globally, so that the benefit can be availed by inbound tourists of different nationalities. This scheme was valid till 31.03.2022.

Government of India also gave relief from various regulatory compliances under Income Tax Act, companies Act and GST Act for varying period in the wake of COVID-19 crisis to ensure business continuity and survival.

Validity of approval or certification of hotels and other accommodation units whose project approval/re-approval and classification/re-classification have expired/were likely to expire was extended up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022. On the similar lines, validity of the approval/recognition of the existing tourism service providers (Tour Operators/ Travel Agents/ Tourist Transport Operators) was extended till 30.06.2022, subject to the condition that they had applied for renewal. Agencies seeking fresh approval recognition were also given provisional approval till 30.06.2022.

(c) and (d): The signing of Agreements / Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various countries is an ongoing process and the Ministry of Tourism has signed Agreements / MoUs in the field of tourism cooperation with other countries and multilateral fora. The important components of such Agreements / MoUs include the following:

- i) Exchange of information and data related to tourism.
- ii) Cooperation between tourism stakeholders including hotels & Tour operators.
- iii) Exchange of visits of Tour Operators/Media/Opinion Makers for promotion of two-way tourism.
- iv) Exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development.
- v) Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sector.
- vi) Exchange of experience in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management.
- vii) Participation in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other's country.

Name of the countries and multilateral fora, with whom MoUs / Agreements have been signed for bilateral and multilateral cooperation for strengthening tourism cooperation and promoting tourism products of India is annexed at Annexure-II.

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**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.168 ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO ATTRACT FOREIGN TOURISTS.**

<b>List of Countries whose nationals are eligible for e-Visa facility</b>			
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Country</b>	<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Country</b>
1.	Andorra	37.	Denmark
2.	Angola	38.	Djibouti
3.	Anguilla	39.	Dominica
4.	Antigua & Barbuda	40.	Dominican Republic
5.	Albania	41.	East Timor
6.	Austria	42.	Ecuador
7.	Argentina	43.	El Salvador
8.	Armenia	44.	Estonia
9.	Aruba	45.	Eritrea
10.	Australia	46.	Fiji
11.	Azerbaijan	47.	Finland
12.	Bahamas	48.	France
13.	Barbados	49.	Gabon
14.	Belgium	50.	Gambia
15.	Belize	51.	Georgia
16.	Bolivia	52.	Germany
17.	Bosnia & Herzegovina	53.	Ghana
18.	Botswana	54.	Greece
19.	Brazil	55.	Grenada
20.	Brunei	56.	Guatemala
21.	Bulgaria	57.	Guinea
22.	Burundi	58.	Guyana
23.	Cambodia	59.	Haiti
24.	Cameroon Union Republic	60.	Honduras
25.	Cape Verde	61.	Hungary
26.	Cayman Island	62.	Iceland
27.	Chile	63.	Ireland
28.	Colombia	64.	Israel
29.	Comoros	65.	Italy
30.	Cook Islands	66.	Jamaica
31.	Costa Rica	67.	Japan
32.	Cote d'Ivoire	68.	Jordan
33.	Croatia	69.	Kenya
34.	Cuba	70.	Kiribati
35.	Cyprus	71.	Laos
36.	Czech Republic	72.	Latvia

73.	Lesotho	116.	Saint Christopher and Nevis
74.	Liberia	117.	Saint Lucia
75.	Liechtenstein	118.	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
76.	Lithuania	119.	San Marino
77.	Luxembourg	120.	Samoa
78.	Macedonia	121.	Senegal
79.	Madagascar	122.	Serbia
80.	Malawi	123.	Seychelles
81.	Mali	124.	Sierra Leone
82.	Malta	125.	Singapore
83.	Marshall Islands	126.	Slovenia
84.	Mauritius	127.	Slovakia
85.	Mexico	128.	Solomon Islands
86.	Micronesia	129.	South Africa
87.	Moldova	130.	Spain
88.	Monaco	131.	Suriname
89.	Mongolia	132.	Swaziland
90.	Montenegro	133.	Switzerland
91.	Montserrat	134.	Sweden
92.	Mozambique	135.	Taiwan
93.	Myanmar	136.	Tanzania
94.	Namibia	137.	Thailand
95.	Nauru	138.	Tonga
96.	Netherlands	139.	Trinidad & Tobago
97.	New Zealand	140.	Turks & Caicos Island
98.	Nicaragua	141.	Tuvalu
99.	Niger Republic	142.	UAE
100.	Niue Island	143.	Ukraine
101.	Norway	144.	Uruguay
102.	Oman	145.	USA
103.	Palau	146.	Vanuatu
104.	Palestine	147.	Vatican City-Holy See
105.	Panama	148.	Venezuela
106.	Papua New Guinea	149.	Vietnam
107.	Paraguay	150.	Zambia
108.	Peru	151.	Zimbabwe
109.	Philippines	152.	Uganda
110.	Poland	153.	Belarus
111.	Portugal	154.	Benin
112.	Republic of Korea	155.	Equatorial Guinea
113.	Romania	156.	Togo
114.	Russia	157.	Indonesia
115.	Rwanda	158.	Malaysia

159.	Sri Lanka (Not eligible for 5 years e-TV)	163.	Kazakhstan
160.	Tajikistan	164.	Kyrgyzstan
161.	United Kingdom (UK)	165.	Canada
162.	Uzbekistan		

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**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) AND (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 168 ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO ATTRACT FOREIGN TOURISTS.**

**Agreements / Memorandum of Understanding / Letter of Intent signed with foreign countries including multilateral fora by the Ministry of Tourism**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of the country with whom MoU/ Agreement/Protocols signed</b>	<b>MoU / Agreement / LoI</b>	<b>Date of signature</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Iraq	Protocol	25.10.1986	Valid
2.	Portugal	Agreement	29.07.1991	Valid
3.	Syria	Agreement	08.10.1991	Valid
4.	Israel	Agreement	18.05.1993	Valid
5.	Singapore	Agreement	24.01.1994	Valid
6.	Russia	Agreement	30.06.1994	Valid
7.	Iran	MoU	18.04.1995	Valid
8.	Mexico	Agreement	28.03.1996	Valid
9.	Cyprus	Agreement	07.11.1996	Valid
10.	Greece	Agreement	13.01.1998	Valid
11.	Indonesia	MoU	08.02.2000	Valid
12.	Italy	Agreement	26.06.2000	Valid
13.	Sri Lanka	MoU	23.01.2004	Valid
14.	Brazil	Agreement	25.01.2004	Valid
15.	Serbia	MoU	02.11.2004	Valid
16.	IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Tripartite Agreement	Agreement	15.10.2008	Valid
17.	Poland	Agreement	25.04.2009	Valid
18.	ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nation)	MoU	12.01.2012	Valid
19.	Mauritius	MoU	12.03.2013	Valid
20.	Japan	Memorandum	22.01.2014	Valid
21.	Nepal	MoU	25.11.2014	Valid
22.	France	LoI	09.04.2015	Valid
23.	China	Agreement	15.05.2015	Valid
24.	Tanzania	MoU	19.06.2015	Valid
25.	Uzbekistan	Agreement	01.10.2018	Valid

26.	Turkmenistan	MoU	11.07.2015	Valid
27.	Egypt	MoU	24.08.2015	Valid
28.	U.A.E. (United Arab Emirates)	MoU	03.09.2015	Valid
29.	Cambodia	MoU	16.09.2015	Valid
30.	Maldives	MoU	10.04.2016	Valid
31.	Qatar	MoU	05.06.2016	Valid
32.	South Africa	MoU	08.07.2016	Valid
33.	Kyrgyzstan	MoU	20.12.2016	Valid
34.	Oman	MoU	11.02.2018	Valid
35.	Bulgaria	MoU	05.09.2018	Valid
36.	Malta	MoU	17.09.2018	Valid
37.	Romania	MoU	19.09.2018	Valid
38.	Colombia	MoU	04.10.2018	Valid
39.	Korea	MOU	05.11.2018	Valid
40.	Argentina	MoU	18.02.2019	Valid
41.	Saudi Arabia	MoU	20.02.2019	Valid
42.	Croatia	MoU	26.03.2019	Valid
43.	Paraguay	MoU	27.09.2019	Valid
44.	Philippines	MoU	18.10.2019	Valid
45.	Finland	MoU	21.11.2019	Valid
46.	Australia	MoU	11.02.2022	Valid

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