

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2626
ANSWERED ON- 23/03/2023

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FEE BY BHUTAN

2626. # SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the young men and women of Bhutan, who got married in India, are not able to take their spouses to Bhutan;
- (b) if so, the total number of such families at present in India from whom Government of Bhutan is charging the Sustainable Development Fee (SDF);
- (c) whether Government will negotiate with the Government of Bhutan to allow such Bhutanese married couples to stay in Bhutan without paying any fees; and
- (d) if not, whether Government will waive off the fee charged from such married couples of the friendly country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) Indian nationals married to Bhutanese nationals, and their dependent children, can enter and stay in Bhutan on production of a valid Marriage Certificate (MC). Indian nationals possessing a valid work permit (other than for unskilled category) who are married to Bhutanese nationals are also permitted to stay in Bhutan.

The SDF is not applicable to Indian nationals including their dependent children, if they have married to Bhutanese nationals and possess a valid Marriage Certificate. No case has come to the notice of the Embassy of India in Thimphu of an Indian national married to a Bhutanese national and possessing a valid Marriage Certificate being asked to pay SDF to stay in Bhutan as per the New Tourism Policy of Bhutan.

(c & d) Not applicable
