

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 409
ANSWERED ON- 28/11/2024

**INITIATIVES TO INCREASE VISA FREE AND VISA-ON-ARRIVAL FACILITIES
FOR INDIAN CITIZENS**

409. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA

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

- (a) the initiatives taken by Government to increase the number of countries that Indian citizens can visit without a visa or with visa-on-arrival facilities;
- (b) the recent developments in bilateral agreements or negotiations with specific countries aimed at facilitating visa-free travel for Indian tourists; and
- (c) how Government plans to promote awareness among Indian citizens about the countries they can visit visa-free and the related travel benefits?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) Allowing visa free entry/visa-on-arrival facility to foreigners is a sovereign and unilateral decision of the receiving nation, and also depends on various factors including bilateral relations and principle of reciprocity.

However, the Government of India has been continuously making efforts to increase the number of countries that may provide visa free entry travel and visa-on-arrival to Indians for ease of travelling around the world. This Ministry raises the issue of easier and liberalized Visa process for Indian nationals at various levels in bilateral engagements with foreign countries.

Details of countries providing visafree entry/ visa-on-arrival/ e-Visa facility to Indian ordinary passport holders are published and updated from time to time by Ministry of External Affairs on its website, on the following link: <https://www.mea.gov.in/VFFIN.htm>. Travel guidelines for Indians, who intend to travel to a particular country, are also made available on the website of Indian Embassy/Consulate in that country.
