

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.275
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017**

INCLUSION OF MORE COUNTRIES IN VISA ON ARRIVAL SCHEME

275. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to boost annual foreign tourist traffic to the country from the present 14.4 million to 40 million in the next five years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include more countries in visa on arrival scheme;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the expected ratio of employment and revenue to be generated by this move; and**
- (e) the follow up actions taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a) and (b): The Government of India has taken various initiatives to boost foreign tourist traffic to the country, which include:

- i) Launching the Swadesh Darshan Scheme for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits.**
- ii) Launching the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme to beautify and improve amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage sites.**
- iii) Promoting India as a holistic tourism destination in the domestic and international markets.**

- iv) Launching e-Visa for citizens of 163 countries for arrival at 25 airports and 5 seaports to facilitate entry of foreigners for tourism, business and medical purposes.**
- v) Developing and promoting 'Niche Tourism' products.**
- vi) Launching 24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.**

(c): As on date, only Japan is included in the list of countries to which Visa – on – Arrival facility has been extended. There is no other proposal under consideration to further include more countries in the visa – on – arrival scheme.

(d) and (e): Does not arise.
