

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1863
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018

GLOBAL PASSPORT RANK

1863. SHRI OM BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Indian Passport has been ranked 75th out of 94 in the world's most powerful passports according to the 'Global Passport Power Rank 2017' and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated any mechanism for improving the status of the Indian passport in the Global ranking in the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) As per the information available on www.passportindex.org, the Arton Capital Passport Index (ACPI) gives global ranking to various passports based on the "visa free" status accorded to the passport holders of a specific country. The current passport ranking is based on the number of countries a passport holder can visit Visa Free or gets Visa on Arrival. To determine the individual rank of each passport, a Visa Free Score (VFS) is prepared which is the sum of Visa Free (VF) and Visa on Arrival (VoA) facility accorded to the passport holder of a country.

According to the latest Index of 2018, India is ranked 73rd out of 96 with a VFS of 57 with 25 countries according Visa Free entry and 32 countries granting Visa on Arrival facility to Indian passport holders.

(b) The Government has recently liberalized the visa policy with the objective of promoting investments and tourism into India from other countries. The e-Visa scheme has been liberalized to allow business visits and medical treatment in India. The number of entries and validity of e-Visas has been increased and the scheme has been expanded to include 163 countries and territories till date. These initiatives are expected to encourage other countries to reciprocate and facilitate travel of Indian passport holders to their countries. As more countries permit Indian passport holders to visit Visa Free or grant them Visa on Arrival facility, the rank of the Indian passport on the Global Passport Index is expected to improve.

(c) Does not arise.
