

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2161**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31ST JULY, 2018/SHRAVANA 9, 1940 (SAKA)

EASING VISA RELATED SERVICES

2161. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism to allow foreign tourists and travellers to avail of paperless and cashless visa-related services;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the mechanism is a centralized, transparent online platform;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the details of number of tourists who have availed these services till date?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

(a) to (e) : The Govt. Of India has introduced e-Visa and e-FRRO services for foreign tourists and travellers. These services are completely online, centralized and transparent.

e-FRRO facilities are available in the offices of 12 (twelve) Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) (i.e. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bengalure, Calicut, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Trivandrum). It is a web based application aimed to build centralized online platform for foreigners for availing visa and immigration related services in India and to provide faceless, cashless and paperless services to foreigners. Using this application, foreigners can apply online on the portal and obtain the service(s) through e-mail/post without appearing in person at the FRRO offices.

e-Visa scheme is presently available for the national of 165 countries. Through this scheme the Government has provided paperless and cashless services through its online portal www.indianvisaonline.gov.in/e-visa where the applicants pay the processing fee online after which e-visa is processed and Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) is issued to the applicant. The foreigners may show the soft copy/print out of ETA to airlines and immigration officials for travelling to India.

Under e-FRRO scheme, more than 56000 services have been granted by 12 FRROs since April,2018 and more than 49,43000 e-Visa applications have been processed since inception (i.e. Nov, 2014) of e-Visa scheme.
