

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3111  
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2018**

**FREE SIM CARD TO FOREIGN TOURISTS**

**3111. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:  
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:**

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the scheme of providing free SIM Cards to foreign tourists arriving in the country through the e-visa route;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the details of the scheme being implemented in this regard;**
- (c) the total number of tourists arrived in the country on e-visas and the revenue earned therefrom during the year 2016, country-wise; and**
- (d) whether the Government aims to double the foreign tourist arrivals and revenue therefrom in the next three years and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

**(a) and (b): The Ministry of Tourism had launched the initiative for providing pre-loaded SIM cards to foreign tourists, arriving in India on e-visa, w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017. This initiative was launched in association with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), wherein BSNL distributed pre-loaded SIM cards to foreign tourists arriving in India, on e-visa. The scheme was launched on pilot basis in the New Delhi IGI airport and the Cochin International airport. This service has been withdrawn w.e.f. 17.11.2017, as it was on pilot basis. 5019 tourists have availed the scheme at the New Delhi IGI airport since its launch and 3685 tourists availed this initiative at the Cochin International Airport, during this period.**

**(c): The total number of tourists who visited India on e-visa during the year 2016, country-wise, may be seen at Annexure.**

**(d): The Ministry of Tourism continuously aims for increasing the foreign tourist arrivals into the country and for increasing the Foreign Exchange Earnings, from tourism, by taking a slew of promotional activities, through the Incredible India campaign, globally and developing niche tourism products, to promote India as a 365 days destination, offering year round experiences.**

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## **ANNEXURE**

### **STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3111 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2018 REGARDING FREE SIM CARD TO FOREIGN TOURISTS.**

**The total number of tourists who visited India on e-visa during the year 2016, country-wise is as under:**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>E-visa</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Andorra</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Albania</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Anguilla</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Argentina</b>	<b>2929</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Armenia</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Aruba</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>47634</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Austria</b>	<b>2981</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Bahamas</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Barbados</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>6811</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Belize</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>849</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Bolivia</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Bosnia</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Botswana</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Brazil</b>	<b>5949</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Brunei</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>40482</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Cayman Island</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Chile</b>	<b>1457</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>62396</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>China SAR Hong Kong</b>	<b>5119</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>China SAR Macau</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Colombia</b>	<b>1536</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Comoros</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Cook Island</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>647</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Cuba</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>32</b>	<b>Czech</b>	<b>2560</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>3647</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Djibouti</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>Dominica</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>East Timor</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Ecuador</b>	<b>577</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Eritrea</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>1415</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>960</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>2903</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>65188</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Gabon</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Gambia</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>47</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>839</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>49484</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>Ghana</b>	<b>524</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Grenada</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>51</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>2287</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>53</b>	<b>Guyana</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>Guinea</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>55</b>	<b>Haiti</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>56</b>	<b>Honduras</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>57</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>2968</b>
<b>58</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>5247</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>7497</b>
<b>60</b>	<b>Iceland</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>Israel</b>	<b>13024</b>
<b>62</b>	<b>Ivory Cost</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>63</b>	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>64</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>13223</b>
<b>65</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>1582</b>
<b>66</b>	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>2419</b>
<b>67</b>	<b>Kiribati</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>Laos</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>69</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>1170</b>
<b>70</b>	<b>Lesotho</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>71</b>	<b>Liberia</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>72</b>	<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>73</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1975</b>
<b>74</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>381</b>
<b>75</b>	<b>Macedonia</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>76</b>	<b>Madagascar</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>77</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>16822</b>
<b>78</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>79</b>	<b>Malawi</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>80</b>	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>81</b>	<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>10714</b>
<b>82</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>8934</b>
<b>83</b>	<b>Micronesia</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>84</b>	<b>Monaco</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>85</b>	<b>Moldova</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>86</b>	<b>Mongolia</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>87</b>	<b>Montenegro</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>88</b>	<b>Montserrat</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>89</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>704</b>
<b>90</b>	<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>1141</b>
<b>91</b>	<b>Nauru</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>92</b>	<b>Namibia</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>93</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>19077</b>
<b>94</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>10644</b>
<b>95</b>	<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>96</b>	<b>Niue Islands</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>97</b>	<b>Norway</b>	<b>5961</b>
<b>98</b>	<b>Oman</b>	<b>4253</b>
<b>99</b>	<b>Palau</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>Palestine</b>	<b>358</b>
<b>101</b>	<b>Panama</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>102</b>	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>103</b>	<b>Paraguay</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>104</b>	<b>Peru</b>	<b>740</b>
<b>105</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>8217</b>
<b>106</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>9168</b>
<b>107</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>5670</b>
<b>108</b>	<b>Rep of Korea</b>	<b>21125</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>Rep of Croatia</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Russia</b>	<b>63608</b>
<b>111</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>1927</b>

<b>112</b>	<b>Saint Christopher &amp; Nevis</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>113</b>	<b>Saint Lucia</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>114</b>	<b>Saint Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>115</b>	<b>Saint Marino</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>116</b>	<b>Samoa</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>117</b>	<b>Seychelles</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>118</b>	<b>Senegal</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>119</b>	<b>Serbia</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>120</b>	<b>Singapore</b>	<b>16639</b>
<b>121</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>1440</b>
<b>122</b>	<b>Solomon Islands</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>123</b>	<b>Slovak Rep</b>	<b>1096</b>
<b>124</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>15489</b>
<b>125</b>	<b>Spain</b>	<b>23644</b>
<b>126</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>4935</b>
<b>127</b>	<b>Suriname</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>128</b>	<b>Swaziland</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>129</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>10318</b>
<b>130</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>6154</b>
<b>131</b>	<b>Taiwan</b>	<b>4495</b>
<b>132</b>	<b>Tajikistan</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>133</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>795</b>
<b>134</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>9202</b>
<b>135</b>	<b>Tonga</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>136</b>	<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>137</b>	<b>Turks &amp; Caicos Island</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>138</b>	<b>Tuvalu</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>139</b>	<b>UAE</b>	<b>18599</b>
<b>140</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>15498</b>
<b>141</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>239005</b>
<b>142</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>157061</b>
<b>143</b>	<b>Uruguay</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>144</b>	<b>Vanuatu</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>145</b>	<b>Vatican City Holy See</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>146</b>	<b>Venezuela</b>	<b>405</b>
<b>147</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>1304</b>
<b>148</b>	<b>Zambia</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>149</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<b>144</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1079696</b>

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