

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3363**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7TH AUGUST, 2018/ SHRAVANA 16, 1940 (SAKA)

ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IDA)

**3363. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted the Islands Development Agency (IDA) for holistic development of 26 islands including key infrastructure projects, digital connectivity, green energy, desalination plants, waste management, promotion of fisheries and tourism-based projects;

(b) if so, the objectives and salient features of IDA;

(c) whether the Government has any details regarding the islands selected for the implementation of various projects under the IDA and the amount earmarked in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is planning to dispense with the requirement of Restricted Area Permit for foreigners visiting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The Government has constituted an Islands Development Agency (IDA) to oversee the comprehensive development of Islands.

The functions of the IDA are as follows:-

(i) Guide the policies and programmes for comprehensive Development of Islands;

(ii) Guide the formulation of Integrated Master Plans for comprehensive development of Islands;

(iii) Review the policies, programmes, plans and their implementation for comprehensive development of Islands;

(iv) Review any other matter concerning the Islands.

(c): Key areas for development have been identified and final Site Potential Development Report have been prepared for four Islands in Andaman & Nicobar namely Smith, Ross, Long and Aves Islands and five islands in Lakshadweep namely Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriya and Suheli Islands at this stage.

(d) & (e): In the interest of promoting tourism and overall development of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, it has been decided to exclude 29 inhabited islands in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime upto 31st December, 2022 with certain conditions.