

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1185**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 / AGRAHAYANA 27, 1940  
(SAKA)**

**RESTRICTED AREA PERMIT FOR A&N ISLAND**

**1185. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:  
SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:  
SHRI P.C. MOHAN:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Government has excluded North Sentinel Island and 28 others in the Union Territory from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime till December 31, 2022 and if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether lifting of RAP implies that foreigners could be allowed to visit these Islands without permission from the Government and if so, the reasons therefor;**

**(c) whether the Government may consider reimposing restrictions that require foreigners to obtain special permits to visit protected Island in Andaman and Nicobar housing uncontacted, aboriginal tribes, if pressed by experts and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribe (NCST) which first opposed relaxation of restricted-area-permit regime in August and if so, the details thereof;**

**(d) whether it is true that the doing away with restricted area permit for foreigners to visit North Sentinel Island by the Government had nothing to do with the killing of a foreigner recently; and**

**(e) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (e): 30 Islands in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Island, including North Sentinel Island were excluded from the Restricted Area**

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**Permit (R.A.P.) regime till 31.12.2022 subject to certain conditions. However, separate approvals of the appropriate competent authorities would continue to be required for visiting Reserved Forests, Wildlife sanctuaries and Tribal reserves as is the case at present. Government can withdraw the relaxation at any time based on security considerations. Relaxing the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) requirements for foreigners visiting A&N Islands had nothing to do with the killing of a U.S. National.**

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