

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 389**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH FEBRUARY, 2019/, MAGHA 16, 1940 (SAKA)
LAUNCH OF E-FRRO MODULE**

389. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch e-FRRO module to cater to various services related to VISA to foreigners which will also obviate the need of foreigners to visit FRRO offices for extending their stay, change of the VISA status etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes for more liberal measure for issue of VISA to foreigners for the cases like conversion of VISA into medical category in an emergency for a foreigners who is already in the country, permission for foreigners who are on long duration VISAs to attend conferences etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Government has launched the e-FRRO Module throughout the country in October, 2018. It is a web-based application aimed to build centralized online platform for the foreigners who are already in India for availing visa/immigration related services and to provide faceless, cashless and paperless services to them. Under this Module, 12 Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) act as 'Nodal Officers' and process the applications received online from their respective States and Districts. All visa and immigration related services within India i.e. Registration, Visa extension, Visa conversion, Exit permit etc. which were earlier being processed by Foreigners

Registration Officers (FROs)/ Superintendents of Police (SPs) in their districts are now being processed online by nodal FRROs as per their jurisdiction. The nodal FRROs consult the FROs for feedback/ opinion on a case-to-case basis and grant services electronically after such feed back.

(c) & (d) Government has taken a number of steps to facilitate foreign nationals who are staying in India on valid visas. A foreign national who is already in India on any type of valid visa is now allowed to take indoor treatment from any Government/ ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)/ NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers)/ MCI (Medical Council of India)/ CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) recognized hospital / treatment centre up to a period of 180 days without having to convert the primary visa to Medical Visa. Besides, the requirement of a Medical Permit, which was prescribed earlier, has been dispensed with. Further, a foreigner on any long duration visa, like Business/ Employment / Student/ Research visa etc, is permitted to attend an international conference/ seminar/ workshop without any specific permission from the FRRO concerned provided political clearance and event clearance for holding the international conference/ seminar/ workshop, wherever necessary, has been granted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs respectively.