

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5240  
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023**

**FREE TOURIST VISA FOR FOREIGNERS**

**5240. SHRIMATI QUEEN OJA:**

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

- (a) whether it is fact that, after the pandemic of Covid-19, the Government has started free tourist visa for foreign nationals and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the number of countries whose nationals can avail this scheme;**
- (c) whether five lakh free visas have been sanctioned for foreign nationals which will be a loss of foreign currency;**
- (d) whether the Government has any scheme to recover the loss and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) and (b): Government of India on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 announced grant of First Five Lakh Tourist Visas without charging Visa Fee, once, Tourist Visa is restored, which was applicable for both i.e. e-Tourist Visa and Regular Tourist Visa.**

**Government of India allowed foreign nationals to enter into India for tourism purpose on e-Tourist Visa/Tourist Visa through Charter Flights (for group Tourism only) w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Individual foreign nationals were allowed to enter into India for tourism purpose on e-Tourist Visa/Tourist Visa w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.**

**Free Tourist Visa was applicable only to e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa issued on or after 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. The validity of these Tourist Visas was to be 30 days with single entry. This scheme was valid till 31<sup>st</sup>**

**March, 2022 or till the issuance of first five lakh tourist visas, whichever is earlier.**

**1,27,999 Regular Tourist Visas and 2,27,225 e-Tourist Visas were issued from 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.**

**e-Tourist Visa was initially available for the nationals of 156 countries which has now been revised to 166 countries; whereas, Regular Tourist Visa was available for most of the countries.**

**(c) to (e): As the situation of Covid pandemic started improving, Government of India announced first 5 lakh free tourist visa for the nationals of foreign countries to incentivize them to visit India. The scheme was applicable till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 or till 5 lakh free visas are issued, whichever is earlier.**

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