GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4506

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 23RD MARCH, 2021/ CHAITRA 2, 1943 (SAKA)

VISA RELAXATION POST COVID

4506.   SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has relaxed visa restrictions and guidelines in view of pre and post Covid-19 situation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and visa-wise like job visa, educational visa, tourism visa and study-purpose visa, etc.?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) & (b):   Owing to the situation arising out of COVID-19 pandemic and to control its spread, Government had taken a series of steps to curtail the inward/outward movement of international passengers (both foreigners as well as Indians) in a calibrated manner since February, 2020. As a part of un-lock process, the Government started relaxing the visa and travel restrictions in a phased manner since May 2020. Orders were issued by the Government on 21.10.2020 permitting all Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders & PIO cardholders holding passports of any country and all foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose except those

on Tourist Visa to enter India by water routes or by flights including those under the Vande Bharat Mission or 'air bubble' (bilateral air travel arrangements) scheme or by any non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Government also restored all existing visas except electronic visas (e-Visa), Tourist Visa and Medical Visa, which remained suspended. Indian Missions/Posts were also authorized to issue Medical visa (including visa for Medical Attendants) to foreign nationals intending to visit India for medical treatment in emergencies and single entry 'X-Misc' Visa for appropriate period to those who are not covered by the categories permitted to enter India if they are required to visit India urgently due to any family emergency.

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