

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2660**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021/ AGRAHAYANA 23, 1943 (SAKA)**

**FOREIGN TOURISTS**

**2660. SHRI V.K.SREEKANDAN:**

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

**(a) whether the Government is considering to review the decision to allow foreign tourists in the country, if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether it is a fact that a new variant of Covid-19 has been detected in many parts of the world, if so, the details thereof;**

**(c) whether it is also true that the Government is considering again to impose mandatory quarantine and testing for the people coming from the other countries where the new variant of Covid-19 has been detected; and**

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

**ANSWER**

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

**(a): Due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions were imposed on foreign tourists in March, 2020. Subsequently, the restrictions were relaxed in a graded manner. Keeping in view the improvement in COVID situation, foreign tourists on e-Tourist visa/ Tourist Visa were allowed w.e.f. 15.10.2021 in case of Group tourists and w.e.f. 15.11.2021 in case of individual foreign tourists. The decision in the matter is taken keeping in view the evolving situation of COVID and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.**

**(b): Like all viruses, SARS-CoV-2 also undergoes mutations and evolves over time. Such mutant variants have been reported globally. Till date five Variants of Concern have been classified by World Health Organization (WHO). The Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 is the latest variant classified as Variant of Concern by the WHO. The Omicron variant has been reported from 54 countries. Total 23 cases of Omicron variant have been detected in India till 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

**(c) & (d): ‘Guidelines on International Arrivals’ are being reviewed and revised from time to time. The last update was done on 30th November 2021. The relevant information is placed in public domain on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).**

**As per the guidelines issued by MoHFW all international travellers arriving in India are required to upload a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test report for a test done within 72 hours before departure for India. Travellers coming from countries designated as ‘at-risk’, are additionally required to undergo post-arrival testing twice (on arrival and on 8<sup>th</sup> day) and also undergo mandatory home quarantine for 7 days’ post arrival in India followed by self-health monitoring for next 7 days.**

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