

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 84
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021**

REOPENING OF DOORS TO FOREIGN TOURISTS

84. SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:

SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED:

SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:

DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to reopen its doors to foreign tourists from countries where the Covid-19 situation is under control;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the countries from where the tourists will be allowed;**
- (c) the response received from these countries and the revenue earned so far;**
- (d) whether the Government has formulated specific protocols for the international tourists keeping in mind the possibility of third wave and if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Government has organized inter-ministerial talks for a calibrated resumption of tourist visas and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure to follow all required health protocols and restore confidence in tourism industry?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e): Ministry of Home Affairs had detailed deliberations/ consultations with all the stakeholders at different levels for relaxation of visa and travel restrictions for foreign tourists intending to visit India.

Keeping in view the improvement in COVID situation in India and subject to adherence to COVID related guidelines of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare [Annexure-I] as applicable to international travellers, it was decided that:

- i. All foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism purposes will be allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist Visa/Tourist visa through Chartered flights (for group tourism only) from 15.10.2021; and**
- ii. All individual foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism purposes will be allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist visa/Tourist visa w.e.f. 15.11.2021.**

Further, Tourist Visa/e-Tourist Visa of foreign nationals intending to visit India for tourism will have to be utilized within 120 days from the date of issue of such visa/Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). Fresh Tourist Visa/e-Tourist visa will remain valid for single entry for up to 30 days from the date of entry into India. Relaxation of visa and travel restrictions for foreign tourists is not country-specific.

(c): The normal tourist visa foreign tourists have been allowed with effect from 15.11.2021. Therefore, the response from tourists can't be assessed in such a short time.

(d) & (f): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has issued detailed guidelines for international arrivals on 11.11.2021. The guideline contains the details of protocols/ Do's/ Dont's to be followed by the international tourists before boarding, during the travel and on arrival. The same will be applicable for the international travellers arriving Seaports/ Land ports. A copy of the guidelines dated 11.11.2021 issued by MoH&FW is annexed as Annexure-I.

(e): Reply given with para (b) above.

(f): Reply given with para (d) above.
