

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1299
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2016**

WAIVING OF TOURIST VISA FEES

1299. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans of waiving tourist visa fees in targeted destinations to boost FTA;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has any plans of waiving VAT on purchases by foreign tourists;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) and (b): The Government has no plan of waiving Tourist Visa fees. However, there is a broad discussion underway for overall liberalization in the existing visa policy so as to enhance the ease of travel of foreign tourists to India. This exercise is also accompanied by discussion regarding improvement of infrastructure and connectivity in India so as to boost foreign tourist arrivals in the country.

(c) to (e): VAT being a tax on sale or purchase of goods is purely a State matter by virtue of Entry 54 in the List-II (State List), Seventh Schedule of the constitution, wherein State Governments have sovereign power to make Sale Tax/VAT laws. Therefore, the Central Government (Department of Revenue) cannot take any action in respect of VAT.
