

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2754
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2006
VISIT OF FOREIGNERS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether foreign nationals have to register themselves on their arrival in India;
- (b) If so, the time frame within which they have to register, country-wise;
- (c) The rules pertaining to their registration;
- (d) The number of registration offices in the country, State-wise;
- (e) Whether any suggestions/complaints have been received from foreigners regarding registration rules ;
- (f) If so, the action taken to review the rules;
- (g) Whether Indian nationals are also required to register themselves on their arrival on foreign land; and
- (h) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2754 FOR ANSWER ON 12.12.2006

(a) to (h) The regulations governing the entry, stay, movements, departure etc., in India of a foreigner are contained in the Passport(Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Rules and Orders made thereunder.

Foreigners entering into India on long-term visa, i.e. for a period of more than 180 days

(on Student Visa, Employment Visa, Research Visa, Medical Visa etc.) are required to get themselves registered within 14 days of their arrival with the concerned Foreigners Regional Registration Officers(FRROs)/Foreigners Registration Officer(FRO).

Apart from Foreigners Regional Registration Officers(FRROs), under the Bureau of Immigration, located at five places i.e. in Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Amritsar, the State Governments have designated certain authorities to act as Foreigners Registration Officers(FROs) for the purpose of registration etc. of foreigners in India. Usually, the District Superintendent of Police is designated to act as FRO of the District.

However, Pakistani nationals visiting India are required to register themselves at the check-post of entry within 24 hours of their reaching the specified places of stay, report their arrival in writing to the prescribed authority or the nearest police station. They will also make a similar report 24 hours prior to their intended departure from each place of stay.

Foreigners are not required to get themselves registered, if their continuous stay in India does not exceed more than 180 days. The requirement of registration by foreigners with the concerned FRRO/FRO is important from the security point of view and helps in keeping track on the activities and movements of the foreigners in the country and as such relaxation in registration rules may not be desirable.

As regards the requirement of registration of Indian nationals on arrival in foreign countries, the information primarily relates to policies/practices of foreign governments and as such it is not possible to furnish any details on this. However, it is understood that in many countries the visiting/resident Indian nationals are required to be registered with the local immigration authorities apart from their registration with the Indian Embassy located abroad.