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The foreigners of above mentioned countries may also avail of TVOA for upto 30 days for medical treatment, for casual business or to visit friends/relatives, etc. The TVOA facility is not applicable to the holders of Diplomatic/Official Passports. Further, TVOA shall not be granted to the foreigners who have permanent residence or occupation in India. Such persons can visit India on normal visa, as applicable.

Ending gender discrimination in paramilitary forces

1497. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any step in the direction of putting an end to gender discrimination prevalent in paramilitary forces so that feeling of gender discrimination could be removed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) There is no gender discrimination prevalent in the paramilitary forces and fair and equitable treatment is given to both, female and male force personnel in all service matters and other benefits available.

Naxalites involved in sexual exploitation

†1498. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is conveying the idea that naxalites are extorting money from the rich and killing the poor;

(b) if so, the rationale behind it and the basis thereof and whether there is any instance to confirm it;

(c) whether Government has any information that the naxalites are engaged in wide-spread sexual exploitation also; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving wide publicity to their misdeeds before whole country and common people?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.