

- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the number of citizens of various such countries availed the said scheme since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In order to promote tourism, Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVOA) scheme was introduced for the nationals of five countries, namely, Japan, Singapore, Finland, Luxembourg and New Zealand with effect from 01.01.2010 for one year. The scheme has been found to be useful by the foreign nationals. The Government of India has extended the Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVOA) scheme for the nationals of above mentioned five countries. Further, TVOA scheme has been introduced for the nationals of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Philippines with effect from 01.01.2011; and for the nationals of Myanmar and Indonesia with effect from 28.01.2011.

The TVOA is allowed for a maximum validity of 30 days with single entry facility by the Immigration Officers at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata Airports on payment of a fee of US \$ 60/- or equivalent amount in Indian rupees per passenger (including children). TVOA is allowed for a maximum of two times in a calendar year to a foreigner with a minimum gap of two months between each visit. TVOA shall be non-extendable and non-convertible.

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.

- (c) 13042 nationals of above mentioned countries availed the TVOA facility upto July, 2011.

Maoists from Nepal to Bengal forming armed squads

†3811. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Maoists coming to Bengal from Nepal have formed armed squads;
- (b) whether the Nepal Government has released many prisoners and announced withdrawal of cases against thousands without any condition after holding negotiations with Maoists there;
- (c) whether despite that they have started organising themselves again; and
- (d) the precautions being taken by the Central Government in the light of these circumstances?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) There are no intelligence inputs indicating that the Maoists from Nepal are coming to Bengal and forming armed squads. There is also no information that the Government of Nepal has released many prisoners and announced withdrawal of cases against thousands without any condition after holding negotiations with the Maoists. Security along the Indo-Nepal border has been strengthened by the Government with the deployment of SSB along the border.

Resignation by officers and staff in CRPF

†3812. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of officers and staff have resigned from Central Reserve Police Force in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the details of the complaints regarding promotion and service facilities put-forth by the officers and staff of Central Reserve Police Force during last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) A few number of personnel have resigned from Central reserve Police force in the recent past. Details of the personnel who tendered resignation during last three years are as under:-

Years	No. of personnel tendered resignation
2008	271
2009	269
2010	359

(c) and (d) As reported by CRPF, there is no specific complaint regarding promotions and service facilities put-forth by the officers and staff of Central Reserve Police Force during last three years. However, representations regarding promotion and service facilities as and when received, are attended to as per the extant rules and instructions. Specific mechanisms are also in place in the force to address the grievances and complaints of officers and staff of CRPF.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.