

They are purchasing properties in the name of villagers. They enter into partnership and when somebody goes and asks them, they deny and say, "I am only a manager here! I am not doing anything." But, virtually, the entire business of eateries is being done by these people. What are you doing?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Sir, I convey my sincere thanks to the hon. Member for bringing it to the notice of our Ministry. Since it being a State-subject, I will definitely discuss it with the State to ensure that the sovereignty of our country is maintained at the State-level also and no such country or tourism from a specific area is permitted to do any such activity. I will bring it to the notice of the State Government also.

चीनी नागरिकों को ई-टूरिस्ट वीजा प्रदान किया जाना

*109. श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीनी नागरिकों को ई-टूरिस्ट वीजा दिये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि देश की खुफिया एजेंसी ने इस कदम पर कड़ी आपत्ति की है और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री किरन रिजिजू): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) ऐसा प्रस्ताव है परन्तु अभी तक कोई अंतिम निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

E-Tourist visa to Chinese nationals

†*109. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal of offering 'e-tourist visa' to Chinese nationals, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that country's intelligence agency have expressed strong objections over it and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

(a) and (b) There is such a proposal but no final decision has been taken as yet.

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन : माननीय सभापति महोदय, खुफिया ब्यूरो की आपत्ति के बावजूद सरकार ने चीनी नागरिकों को "ई टूरिस्ट वीजा" देने का फैसला लिया है, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि खुफिया ब्यूरो ने क्या आपत्तियाँ की थीं और क्या इन आपत्तियों को दूर कर लिया गया है?

श्री किरन रिजिजू : सभापति महोदय, पहली बात तो यह है कि अभी ऐसा निर्णय नहीं हुआ है। हमारे पास चाइनीज नेशनल्स को Electronic Visa देने का जो प्रपोजल आया है, इस बारे में हमने अभी फैसला नहीं लिया है। दूसरी बात, माननीय सदस्या ने intelligence के बारे में कही है, नॉर्मली intelligence inputs details हमारे पास रहते हैं, लेकिन उनकी चर्चा हम public domain में नहीं करते हैं। इसलिए हमने उसकी डिटेल्स का जिक्र नहीं किया है।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन : महोदय, अखबारों में यह बात छपी थी, जिस वजह से मैंने यह सवाल किया, लेकिन अगर आप उन्हें वीजा दे रहे हैं, तो ठीक है, लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगी कि आप उनके verification के क्या तरीके अपनाएंगे?

श्री किरन रिजिजू : सर, चीन Prior Reference Category countries में आता है और बिजनेस और टूरिस्ट वीजा को छोड़कर बाकी चाइनीज नेशनल्स के लिए गृह मंत्रालय से permission लेनी पड़ती है। हमने जो प्रावधान रखे हैं, उनके अनुसार वहाँ की हमारी Embassy भी एक लिस्ट maintain करती है और यहाँ गृह मंत्रालय भी लिस्ट maintain करता है। उस लिस्ट में अगर clearance पाई जाती है, उसमें वह ब्लैक लिस्ट में नहीं है, तो उसमें आपत्ति नहीं होती है। यह बहुत सरल प्रोसेस है। हमारे देश में टूरिस्ट्स की बात हो, या हमारे देश में जो मेडिकल टूरिज्म की बात आती है, बहुत सारे विषय हैं, जो purely for the purpose to increase the tourist inflow in the country. इसलिए यह इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वीजा का है, it is a facilitation process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anand Sharma.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, this Visa-On-Arrival has been there for identified number of countries for many years and there have been subsequent additions. In the last one year, the Prime Minister of India, during his foreign visits, has in the bilateral talks announced Visa-On-Arrival for the nationals of the countries which he has visited and there is no objection to that. But there is a fundamental issue about the Visa-On-Arrival and that the hon. Minister should hear attentively. Sir, as per the circular issued for the Visa-On-Arrival, 72 hours before the person, tourist, individual, who has to travel has to file it electronically and must have the confirmation before boarding the flight. Otherwise, there have been a number of instances where either the airlines, the carriers, have refused to accept that and there are instances when upon arrival – you are talking of promoting tourism – people have been turned back from the airport. There, the system is malfunctioning ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anand Sharmaji.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, because it is on e-Visas and the Minister's reply... (Interruptions)... I know, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is very specific to one nationality.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I know, but the Minister in his reply did say about Visa-On-Arrival and he did mention that why it is being promoted; that is to facilitate tourism, to promote tourism. My question emanates from what the Minister has said and I am very much correct in asking this. Therefore, are you going to take some measures to improve this? Recently there has been a case. I am not going to take the names. Some very eminent Indian's grandson who came from Australia with this Visa-On-Arrival facility was detained at the airport for ten hours and put on a flight back. So, this system needs improvement before you keep on adding countries to it.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, it is right as the hon. senior Member has raised this issue. There were instances where because of the misunderstanding of the whole subject, such incidents did occur and it is not Visa-On-Arrival *per se*, it is electronic Visa which needs to be cleared before he boards the aircraft. So we have named it; we have given it a short title now, e-Tourist Visa. The earlier name was Electronic Visa-on-Arrival. It was a long name so we made it short and crisp. And to ensure that everything is smooth and nobody is turned back who has arrived in Indian territory, everything has to be cleared. As I have stated earlier, we maintained the list that it has to be cleared before. Seventy-two hours is the stipulated time where the agencies, the Embassies or High Commissions must clear everything. So, I admit that there was an issue and it has been addressed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Viplove Thakur.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर: माननीय सभापति जी, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि यह अभी फैसला करना है कि यह चाइनीज को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वीजा एराइवल का देना है या नहीं। अभी तो इसके लिए प्रोसेस शुरू किया है, अभी तक दिया नहीं है। तो ऐसे क्या रीजन्स हैं, अभी तक क्यों नहीं दिया गया है? प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब उधर जा रहे हैं और वहां भी वे कह रहे हैं कि हम इसको शुरू करने जा रहे हैं, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय कह रहे हैं कि अभी प्रोसेस में है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि इसमें कितनी देरी लगेगी और क्यों इसमें देरी आ रही है? इसके ऊपर क्यों इतना सोच-विचार हो रहा है?

श्री किरन रिजिजू : माननीय सभापति जी, जैसा मैंने कहा कि चीन prior reference category में आता है और जो हम अभी चायनीज को वीजा देते हैं, यह दिनांक 26 जून, 2003 का, जो Memorandum of Understanding चीन और भारत के बीच में हुआ था, उस के तहत चीन के

मामले में यह वीजा रिजिम लागू होती है। इसलिए जब अभी तक हमने बदलाव नहीं किया, तो हम यह नहीं कह सकते कि हमने दिया है। प्रपोजल आया है और उस पर consideration कर के decision लेकर, देना या नहीं देना, वह विषय बाद में आएगा। इसीलिए मैंने क्लीयर कट इस सदन को जानकारी दी है कि प्रपोजल आया है, लेकिन निर्णय नहीं हुआ है।

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether this proposed facility which is under consideration is reciprocal, and whether it has taken into account the approach of China to applicants from Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, I would not like to touch upon the other issues which might unnecessarily spark controversy, but visa regime is non-reciprocal. It is unilateral. The main purpose is to enhance the number of foreign visitors into our country. That is a facilitation process. So, it cannot be on the basis of reciprocity. It is not reciprocal.

Promotion and funding of ice-hockey

*110. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most funding for promotion of ice-hockey and to help Indian teams in getting equipment, is given by the US and Canada;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme or support extended by the Central Government from National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) or SAI;

(c) the details of funds sanctioned and disbursed for building ice-hockey infrastructure, equipment aid and support along with promoting and training of players; and

(d) the State-wise details of number of functioning and non-functional ice-hockey rinks, of international size, artificial and natural and the number of players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per information provided by Ice Hockey Association of India, most funding for promotion of ice-hockey and to help Indian team in getting equipment, is not given by US and Canada.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.