

- (iii) **e-Tourist Visa (e-TV):** The Government of India has introduced the facility of e-TV for the citizens of 113 countries at 16 airports. Introduction of e-TV is a Path breaking measure by the Government in easing entry formalities in the country.

Government of India has also revised the e-TV fee in four slabs of 0, US\$25, US\$48 and US\$60 from November 3, 2015. Earlier e-TV application fee was US\$60 and bank charge as US\$2 which was uniform for all the countries. The revision of Visa fee has been done on the principle of reciprocity. Bank charges have also been reduced from US\$2 to 2.5% of the e-TV fee. During the period January to October, 2015 a total of 2,58,182 e-TV holders visited India indicating the success of the new online process.

**Enabling people of A.P. in Telangana to avail
local status in A.P.**

1964. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal to amend the orders of President of India for Para (4) (Regulation of Admission) of 1974 and Para (7) (Organisation of local cadres and regulation of direct recruitment) Order of 1975 to enable the people of Andhra Pradesh who opt and shift to Andhra Pradesh from Telangana for educational and employment purpose before 2nd June 2017, to avail the local status in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to amend the orders of President of India for Para (4) (Regulation of Admission) of 1974 and Para (7) (Organisation of local cadres and regulation of direct recruitment) Order of 1975 has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The proposal is under examination.

Cadre review in BSF

1965. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether average age of an officer commanding a BSF battalion on Indo-Pak Border is close to 50 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for which no cadre review has been done for the last 25 years; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to create more posts at senior levels so that younger officers can take charge of battalions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The average age of an officer commanding a BSF battalion on Indo-Pak Border is approx. 50 years.

Since inception of BSF, two Cadre Review of Group 'A' Officers were approved on 23.02.1981 and 26.06.1990 respectively. Though, no formal Cadre Review was carried out in BSF since 1990, two major restructuring proposals were approved in 2004 and 2009. The sanctioned strength of Group 'A' Officers after 2nd Cadre Review (1990) in BSF was 2546, whereas, as on date the sanctioned strength is 4109, which includes new creation of 181 senior level posts from Commandant to Special Director General. Thus, there is an increase of approx. 62% in Group 'A' posts in BSF since 2nd Cadre Review in 1990

Pension for freedom fighters

†1966. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details along with Rajasthan of total number of freedom fighters and the amount of pension being received by them; and

(b) whether Government proposes to provide pension to such guardians of democracy who went to jail under MISA Act and DIR Act to protect democracy during the emergency in the year 1975, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) The total number of the freedom fighters, their widows and eligible dependents receiving Central Samman Pension through various Banks as on 30th June, 2015 under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980, State-wise including Rajasthan is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). The amount of pension being received by the freedom fighters/eligible dependents is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide pension to any of the individuals who went to jail under MISA Act and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.