

Geospatial Bill

1078. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to review a much criticized draft Geospatial Bill that proposes jail terms of seven years and fine up to 100 crore for wrongly depicting the map of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to gather public opinion on the said Bill;

(c) whether Government has received comments from public and that these comments were under consideration for incorporation in the above Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) The Government has prepared a draft of “The Geospatial Information Regulation Bill, 2016” to regulate the acquisition, dissemination, publication and distribution of geospatial information of India which is likely to affect the security, sovereignty and integrity of India. Comments/suggestions from various stake holders and public were asked on the proposed bill. All suggestions received with regard to a proposed legislation and considered on merit in the Ministry.

Visa-free entry to business visitors

†1079. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs has opposed the proposal to allow visa-free entry to business visitors from 18 countries due to security reasons;

(b) whether Government is taking note of concerns expressed by the Ministry regarding security reasons; and

(c) the number of people along with names of their countries who had applied for visa-free entry during the last one year along with the number of people whose applications were rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (c) Presently, visa-free entry is allowed to the citizens

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.