

of Nepal and Bhutan. However, a citizen of Nepal or Bhutan entering India from China would require a visa. Citizens of Maldives visiting India for a period up to 90 days for tourism and medical purposes are also exempted from the requirement of visa. Proposals have been received from the Department of Commerce for visa waiver for business visitors and tourists for RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) countries and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) which consist of 16 and 5 trading countries including India.

The extant guidelines do not prescribe submission of any application by citizens of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives for availing visa-free entry.

Facilities for pilgrims in Amarnath Yatra

1080. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arrangements and facilities made for pilgrims in Amarnath Yatra;

(b) in view of terrorist attack, whether any security cover is provided to them and enroute;

(c) the number of Yatris allowed so far as compared to last year, the details thereof; and

(d) in view of rain and inclement weather, precautions taken for rescue and relief operations en-route, in case of landslides and closing of the route, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) The details of the arrangements and facilities made for pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra 2016 are as follows:

- Advance registration with effect from 29.2.2016 is being done through 432 branches of Punjab National Bank, YES Bank and J&K Bank in 32 States/ Union Territories.
- 115 Langar Organizations have been allowed to set up Langars to ensure food availability.
- Helicopter services have been made available from Neelgrath and Pahalgam to Panjtarni.
- Improved telecom connectivity through BSNL and Weather forecasting arrangements have been made by India Meteorological Department.

- Medical facilities along both the Yatra routes have been provided by the State Health and Medical Education Department with the support of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Arrangements for water, electricity, shelter sheds, fire safety etc. have been made by the State Government.

(b) Security arrangements in the entire Yatra area, including along the routes have been made by the Army, Central Armed Police Forces and the State Police.

(c) 2,59,057 Yatris had secured advance registration till 20.7.2016 as against 2,42,228 Yatris during the corresponding period last year. In addition, 47,032 Yatris have secured on the spot registration till 20.7.2016 as against 75,004 Yatris during the corresponding period last year. A total of 1,87,903 Yatris have performed Darshan at the Holy Shrine Cave till 20.7.2016 as against 2,57,334 Yatris during the corresponding period last year.

(d) In order to provide immediate rescue and relief operations, 8 Mountain Rescue Teams of Jammu and Kashmir Police and 2 CRPF Rescue Teams have been deployed at identified locations to assist in rescue operations in case of any emergent situations. State Tourism Department has also established Disaster Shelters along the two routes.

Sharing of country's expertise in securing VIPs

1081. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is now fully equipped to share its expertise in securing VIPs and vital security installations with many African countries including Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa;

(b) whether apart from sharing its skill and expertise in the formation of its elite commando force (NSG) which has earned laurels, India will also provide training courses for security personnel from these countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India has entered into an agreement on security cooperation with Mozambique. However, India has no security cooperation agreements with Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa.

India conducts training for African personnel under Indo-African Forum Summit (IAFS).