

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIRAN RIJJU): (a) and (b) A proposal for visa waiver/visa on arrival for tourist and business visitors for RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) countries and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries, which consists of 16 and 5 trading countries including India has not found favour of the Government owing to security concerns.

(c) and (d) Liberalization of visa regime is an ongoing process. The existing rules provide duration of long term visa up to 5 years.

Committee report on border protection

64. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any Committee report to suggest ways to strengthen border protection and address vulnerabilities in fencing along the India-Pakistan border;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government has decided to seal border areas completely by December, 2018; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government so far to strengthen border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) The Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Madhukar Gupta, Retd. Home Secretary has submitted its report to the Government on 29.08.2016 to strengthen border protection and address vulnerabilities in fencing along the India-Pakistan border. The Committee has given its recommendations broadly on the issues of Threats and Border Protection, assessment of force level, deployment on the border, infrastructure and technology issues for protection of border and administrative issues. It has been decided to initiate action in light of the recommendations of the Committee in consultation with the stakeholders.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to plug the gaps along Indo-Pakistan Border by means of physical and non-physical barriers by December, 2018. In this regard, besides deployment of Border Security Force along Indo-Pakistan Border, most of the border is covered by fence as physical barrier. Further, the action plans for the identified gaps in which physical and non-physical barriers are to be installed have been formulated.