

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) and (b) No sir. The saw and order situation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has improved. An All Party Delegation led by Union Home Minister has already visited the State during 4-5 September 2016.

Codes for various categories of Visa

850. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce distinct codes for various categories and sub-categories of Visa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to minimize room for discretion on part of immigration officers while quizzing foreign visitors as part of immigration checks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (c) Distinct codes for various categories of visas are already in place. Rationalization of visa categories by specifying sub-categories to make the visa category specific to the purpose of visit is an ongoing process. A number of steps such as installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRM), capturing of e-data, doing away of Arrival Cards for Indians and Departure cards for foreigners, Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) and sensitization of Immigration staff on behavioural skills, have been taken to facilitate faster immigration clearance at the counters.

Permanent residency status to foreign investors

851. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to grant Permanent Residency Status (PRS) to certain category of foreign investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the relevant conditions specified for the purpose; and

(c) the employment opportunities likely to be generated due to this step of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to grant Permanent Residency Status