

**e-Visa Scheme**

3765. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how Ministry look at the success of e-Visa Scheme;
- (b) the details of countries to which India has offered e-Visas and whether there are any plans to extend it to other countries;
- (c) whether any consultations have been held with Ministry of Tourism about extension of e-Visas to other countries, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) to what extent introduction of e-Visa Scheme helps in increasing tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) The e-Visa scheme will facilitate entry of foreigners for tourism, business and medical purposes.

(b) to (d) The e-Visa facility has been extended to 161 countries. Review of visa policy to include more countries under e-Visa regime is a continuous process and decided in consultation with all the stake holders on the considerations of reciprocity, security and national interests. E-tourist visa entitles the foreigner to undertake recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends/relatives and attending a short term Yoga programme. More than 15 Lac e-Visa have been issued till 2016 since introduction of e-tourist visa regime in Nov, 2014.

**Grants for cause of national integration**

3766. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is releasing grants to voluntary organisations/institutions/universities and other educational institutions for activities in the cause of National Integration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of funds released during the last three years, institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) and (b) The Government provides assistance to voluntary organisations/institutions/universities and other educational institutions for organizing activities in the cause of National Integration. The activities considered eligible for sanction of grants should be such as to promote the cause of national unity and