

**Statement***List of 26 countries that have qualified for reduced level of documentation for Tier 4 Visa*

Under the “Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules” dated 15 June 2018, nationals of the following 26 countries will be subject to reduced documentary requirements under UK's Tier 4 Student Visa.

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1. Argentina	14. Kuwait
2. Australia	15. Malaysia
3. Bahrain	16. The Maldives
4. Barbados	17. Mexico
5. Botswana	18. New Zealand
6. Brunei	19. Qatar
7. Cambodia	20. Serbia
8. Canada	21. Singapore
9. Chile	22. South Korea
10. China	23. Thailand
11. The Dominican Republic	24. Trinidad and Tobago
12. Indonesia	25. United Arab Emirates
13. Japan	26. United States of America

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**Interest of Tamils in Sri Lanka**

183. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more efforts are needed for the improvement of human rights situation in Sri Lanka concerning the Tamils living there, as per a report assessed by the Human Rights Commission;

(b) whether India is committed to protect the interest of Tamil in that country;

(c) whether India's role in the Human Rights Commission had been guided by the belief that human rights concerns of Tamils in Sri Lanka could be addressed in a constructive and inclusive manner; and

(d) whether India had set a time-frame for the Sri Lankan Government to act on human rights concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) During the 37th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in March 2018, the Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) and the Secretary-General on 'Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka' was presented before the UNHRC. The report reviewed progress made by the Government of Sri Lanka during the period from March 2017 to January 2018 on the implementation of resolutions 30/1 and 34/1, in particular regarding the comprehensive recommendations on the judicial and non-judicial measures necessary to advance accountability and reconciliation, and on strengthening the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

India's approach in the UNHRC has been guided by the firm belief that promotion and protection of human rights can be best pursued through constructive and collaborative engagement. We also believe in the primacy of national efforts in the realization of human rights. In keeping with its traditional commitment to human rights and values, India has actively participated in all sessions of the UNHRC, in a constructive and inclusive manner. India continues to remain engaged with Sri Lanka at all levels on its efforts to build a future that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of society, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, for a life of equality, justice, peace, dignity and self-respect as citizens of united Sri Lanka.

#### **Representation against various initiatives for Issuance of passports**

184. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various passport officials were against the various initiatives taken by Government with regard to issuance of passport;

(b) whether Government has received many representations from them citing many aspects of issuance of passport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?