

Islands Development Agency

864. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted the Islands Development Agency for holistic development of 26 Islands including key infrastructure projects, digital connectivity, green energy, desalination plants, waste management, promotion of fisheries and tourism-based projects;

(b) whether Government plans to dispense with the requirement of Restricted Area Permit for foreigners visiting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted an Islands Development Agency (IDA) to oversee the comprehensive development of Islands.

(b) and (c) In the interest of promoting tourism and overall development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it has been decided to exclude 29 inhabited islands in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime upto 31st December, 2022 with certain conditions.

(d) In view of (b) and (c), does not arise.

Lynching by mob due to rumours and fake news

865. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of killings and lynching by mob due to rumours and fake news, in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for spurt in the incidents of mob lynching recently in the country;

(c) whether Government has issued any advisory to the States and UTs to keep a watch for early detection of rumours of child lifting and to take measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken to tame social media operators to monitor and keep a check on rumours and fake news?