

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-559**  
ANSWERED ON- 07/12/2023

**CITIZENS OF INDIAN ORIGIN LIVING ABROAD**

#559. SMT. SUMITRA BALMIK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the number of citizens of Indian origin currently living or working abroad, the details thereof; and

(b) whether some countries have recently given some relaxation in visa rules for Indian tourists, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) As per information available with the Ministry, as of January 2023, there were about 15 million Indian citizens residing abroad.

(b) Details of countries that have recently granted visa relaxation for Indian tourists are as follows:

S. No	Country	Details of visa relaxation
1	Russia	On 1 August 2023, Russian Federation extended the electronic visa facility to nationals of 55 countries including India.
2	Myanmar	On 30 August 2023, Government of Myanmar has started on arrival tourist visa facility for Indian passport holders who enter Myanmar through Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay International Airports.
3	Sri Lanka	On 24 October 2023, Government of Sri Lanka has approved visa free access to Indian tourists for first 30 days of their stay in Sri Lanka. The relaxation is under a pilot project and is in effect till 31 March 2024.
4	Thailand	On 31 October 2023, Government of Thailand approved the tourist visa exemption scheme on a temporary basis for holders of Indian ordinary passports to enter and stay within Thailand for a period not exceeding 30 days, from 10 November 2023 to 10 May 2024.
5	Malaysia	On 26 November 2023, Government of Malaysia has announced 30-day visa free entry to Indian citizens, starting from 1 December 2023 and running until 31 December 2024.

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