

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Matters raised with the permission of the Chair; Shri Zala Kesridevsinhji.

Need to discontinue the practice of filling disembarkation (arrival) card for foreign travellers

SHRI ZALA KESRIDEVSINHJI (Gujarat): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. Under the guidance and leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, the tourism sector has become a vibrant sector of our economy. The multiplier effect of this sector makes it an important part of our economy. The Government's push for greater connectivity as well as the improvements in the hospitality sector is attracting more foreign tourist arrivals into our country. As per the Bureau of Immigration, India received 6.19 million FTAs during 2022 as compared to 1.52 million FTAs during 2021. Similarly, the foreign exchange earnings from tourism in US dollars during the month of February, 2023 were 2.23 billion US dollars as compared to 0.571 billion dollars during the month of February, 2022. The foreigners who bring this inflow into our exchequer travel to India for various tourism reasons. Leisure tourism is amongst the most important, but the business purposes, health tourism and education tourism are also fundamental, not to forget the large NRI Diaspora who visit India regularly.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the *Chair*.)

But, upon their arrival, these foreign tourists are required to manually fill up a disembarkation form which not only consumes a lot of time but takes a toll on already fatigued passengers and also involves unnecessary paper work on immigration officers. Our Government, through its pro-people and tech-savvy approaches, has brought a paradigm shift in the service delivery mechanisms in the country. Be it direct benefit transfer or even digi yatra, efforts are being made to leverage the use of technology with the *mantra* of 'Minimum Government maximum governance'. Today, with the digital technology, passports and visa documentation have become far more efficient because of which this disembarkation card has become redundant. Most of the developed countries do not have this system and even when we, as Indians, go abroad, we are not expected to fill this form up. Therefore, through you, Sir, I would, subject to security reasons, request the Government to discontinue this manual

practice and provide such foreign travellers a paper-free and hassle-free travel experience into our airports. It will help us treat our guests under the *mantra* of 'अतिथि देवो भवः'! Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Zala Kesridevsinhji: Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha) and Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Need to make knowledge of local language as a primary criterion for recruitment of Teachers and Doctors in Puducherry

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY (Puducherry): Sir, the New Education Policy brings out a new era in Indian education system. Even our harshest critics are welcoming, at least, two important features of the policy. One is the primary education through mother tongue and the other is the extension of mother tongue as medium of instruction in the professional courses. But the current scenario prevailing in several States is not conducive to achieve the target. Many State Governments like Puducherry have long back introduced the CBSE pattern of education from the primary level in English medium. Now, they are unable to switch over to Tamil medium as there are no textbooks of CBSE standard in regional languages. This defeats the very purpose of New Education Policy. Therefore, the Central Government should step in, advice and help the State administrations suitably so that the medium of instruction at the primary level will be only in the regional language. Several Governments have already initiated steps to write textbooks in their regional languages for medicine and engineering. Perhaps, in a year or two, they will be fully prepared for the changeover. Puducherry has Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam speaking regions. It can easily adopt the textbooks prepared by the neighbouring States. But attention has to be paid on the recruitment of teachers. Being a Union Territory, the recruitment of Principals of Higher Secondary Schools and college lecturers, is being done by the UPSC. Candidates from other States are getting recruited, but they are not well-versed in teaching in the regional language. As the Principals of the Higher Secondary Schools have to deal with the school students, due to the regional language problem, the required conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning