

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1669
ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020**

IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS ON TOURISM SECTOR

1669. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:

DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

PROF. SAUGATA RAY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Tourism Industry has been hit hard after the spread of Wuhan Corona Virus and if so, the details of losses suffered so far;**
- (b) whether China is the third country behind the United Kingdom and United States in availing e-tourist visas to visit India and if so, the number of Chinese tourists visited India during the last one year;**
- (c) whether the Government has suspended the e-visa facility for Chinese travelers and foreigners residing in China and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether there is also a shortfall of foreign tourists from European countries after the outbreak of Corona Virus in India and other parts of Asia and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether the Government has issued any travel notification to our citizens due to Corona Virus threat and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has not undertaken study on effect of spread of Corona Virus on Indian Tourism Industry.

(b): Yes, Sir. As per the provisional data available on E-tourist Visa for the year 2019, China stands third after United Kingdom and United States in availing e-tourist Visa facility to India. 228945 (provisional) Chinese nationals availed E-tourist visa facility during 2019 to travel to India.

(c): Yes, sir. Details regarding visa restriction to Chinese passport holders and foreigners in China are given in Annexure-I.

(d): Details of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January, 2020 and January, 2019 from European countries and other Asian Countries are given below:

FTAs in January	2020 (Provisional)	2019 (Provisional)
Asia	492798	481355
Europe	303065	313492

(e): Yes, Sir. Details of some of the advisories issued for travellers to and from India and China, are annexed at Annexure-II, Annexure-III and Annexure-IV.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1669 ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020 REGARDING IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS ON TOURISM SECTOR.

Coronavirus related Visa Restriction published on website of Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India

Coronavirus related visa restrictions and conditions for entry into India

- I. All Visas issued to Chinese passport holders from mainland China (except for those from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) including Regular (sticker) as well as e-Visa issued prior to Feb 05, 2020, coming from anywhere in the world, have been suspended and are not valid for travel to India presently.**
- II. No Chinese national as well as other foreigner presently in China are allowed to travel to India on existing Regular (sticker) visa or e-Visa, which was issued on or before Feb 05, 2020. In case of compelling reasons to travel to India, such persons may get in touch with Embassy in Beijing or Consulates in Shanghai and Guangzhou for new Visa. Thus, visas issued to Chinese nationals on or after February 06, shall be valid for travel to India.**
- III. Arrival of any passenger (except Indian nationals) from China into India is presently suspended unless such foreigner has acquired a fresh Visa from Indian Mission/ Consulate in China on or after Feb 06, 2020. Such Chinese or other foreign national need to contact Embassy in Beijing or Consulates in Shanghai and Guangzhou or the concerned Indian Mission where they presently reside for new Visa if they have compelling reasons to travel to India.**
- IV. Foreigners who have been to China on or after Jan 15, 2020, are presently not allowed to enter India from any Air, Land or seaport including Indo-Nepal, Indo-Bhutan, Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-Myanmar and Indo-Pak land borders.**
- V. These visa restrictions will not apply to Aircrew who may be Chinese nationals or other foreign nationals coming from China.**
- VI. The restriction on travel is not applicable to the Chinese passport holders of HongKong, Macau and Taiwan.**

In exception to the categories of travellers mentioned above; the below mentioned categories of Chinese Nationals are allowed to enter India:-

- I. Chinese Nationals holding Diplomatic, Service Passport.**
 - II. Chinese Nationals working in United Nations (UN) bodies and other international bodies.**
 - III. Chinese Nationals who are OCI card holders.**
 - IV. These restrictions do not apply to Transit passengers from other countries who only transit through Airports in China.**
- The above mentioned exempted categories of Chinese nationals will not need to apply for Fresh Visa. Their existing visas would remain valid. However, all such Chinese nationals will be subjected to medical screening and may have to undergo quarantine on arrival in India, if they display any symptoms of Coronavirus.**

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1669 ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020 REGARDING IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS ON TOURISM SECTOR

Advisory issued by EMBASSY OF INDIA, BEIJING on 23rd January 2020 titled “Novel coronavirus outbreak in China: Advisory to travellers from China visiting India”

An infection with a novel coronavirus has been reported from China. As on 22 January, 2020, 571 confirmed cases have been reported in China so far, of which 17 have died. Only travel related cases have been reported in the US, Thailand, South Korea and Japan. The clinical signs and symptoms are mainly fever with a few patients having difficulty in breathing.

The mode of transmission is unclear as of now.

Although as per World Health Organization’s risk assessment the risk for global spread has been stated as low, as a matter of abundant precaution, the travelers from China are advised the following:

- Travelers from China should follow simple public health measures at all times as under:**
 - o Observe good personal hygiene**
 - o Practice frequent hand washing with soap**
 - o Follow respiratory etiquettes - cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing**
 - o Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness, such as cough, runny nose etc.**
 - o Avoid contact with live animals and consumption of raw/undercooked meats**
 - o Avoid travel to farms, live animal markets or where animals are slaughtered**
 - o Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as cough or runny nose**

- All travelers from China (in particular Wuhan city) to monitor their health closely.**

- If you feel sick and have fever and cough:**

- o **Cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing**
- o **Don't plan travels if sick**
- o **Seek medical attention promptly**

- **If you feel sick on flight, while traveling from China to India:**
 - o **Inform the airlines crew about illness**
 - o **Seek mask from the airlines crew**
 - o **Avoid close contact with family members or fellow traveller so**
Follow the directions of airline crew while disembarking

- **If you feel sick on flight or at the time of disembarkation:**
 - o **Report to airport health authorities/immigration**
 - o **Follow the direction of the airport health officer**

- **If you feel sick within a span of one month after last being in China:**
 - o **Report the illness to the nearest health facility and also inform the treating doctor regarding your travel history.**

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1669 ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020 REGARDING IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS ON TOURISM SECTOR

Press release of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 5th Feb 2020.

Cabinet Secretary holds high level meeting to review actions and preparedness on Novel Coronavirus.

New Visa advisory for travellers from China issued.

Cabinet Secretary held a high level meeting to review the actions taken for management of Novel Coronavirus and preparedness of States for the same with Secretaries of Health and Family Welfare, External Affairs, Civil Aviation, Pharma, Dept of Health Research, Member Secretary (NDMA), and other officials from Home Ministry, Commerce, Army and Defence, here today.

In view of the evolving scenario related with 2019- nCOV, the following revised Travel Advisory is issued:

- 1. Existing visas (including eVisa already issued) are no longer valid for any foreign national travelling from China.**
- 2. People have already been advised to refrain from travel to China through an earlier advisory. People traveling to China henceforth will be quarantined on return.**
- 3. Intending visitors may contact Embassy in Beijing (visa.beijing@mea.gov.in) or the Consulates in Shanghai (Ccons.shanghai@mea.gov.in) and Guangzhou (Visa.guangzhou@mea.gov.in) to apply afresh for an Indian visa.**
- 4. The Indian Embassy in China continues to remain contactable 24x7 on two hotline numbers +8618610952903 & +8618612083629 and the dedicated email - helpdesk.beijing@mea.gov.in. Indian nationals in need of any assistance may get in touch with the Embassy on these hotlines and email.**
- 5. For any queries related to health, may contact on Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 24*7 helpline number +91-11-23978046 or email at ncov2019@gmail.com.**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1669 ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020
REGARDING IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS ON TOURISM SECTOR**

**Press release of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 26th
Feb 2020.**

Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID 19): New Travel Advisory.

**In view of the evolving situation related to COVID-19 being
reported from other countries, besides the travel advisories already
issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India,
following additional directions are issued:**

- 1. Indians are advised to refrain from non-essential travel to
Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy.**
- 2. People coming from Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy or having
such travel history since 10th February 2020 may be
quarantined for 14 days on arrival to India.**
- 3. For any technical queries, may contact on 24*7 Health
ministry Control Room helpline number +91-11-23978046 or
email at ncov2019@gmail.com.**
